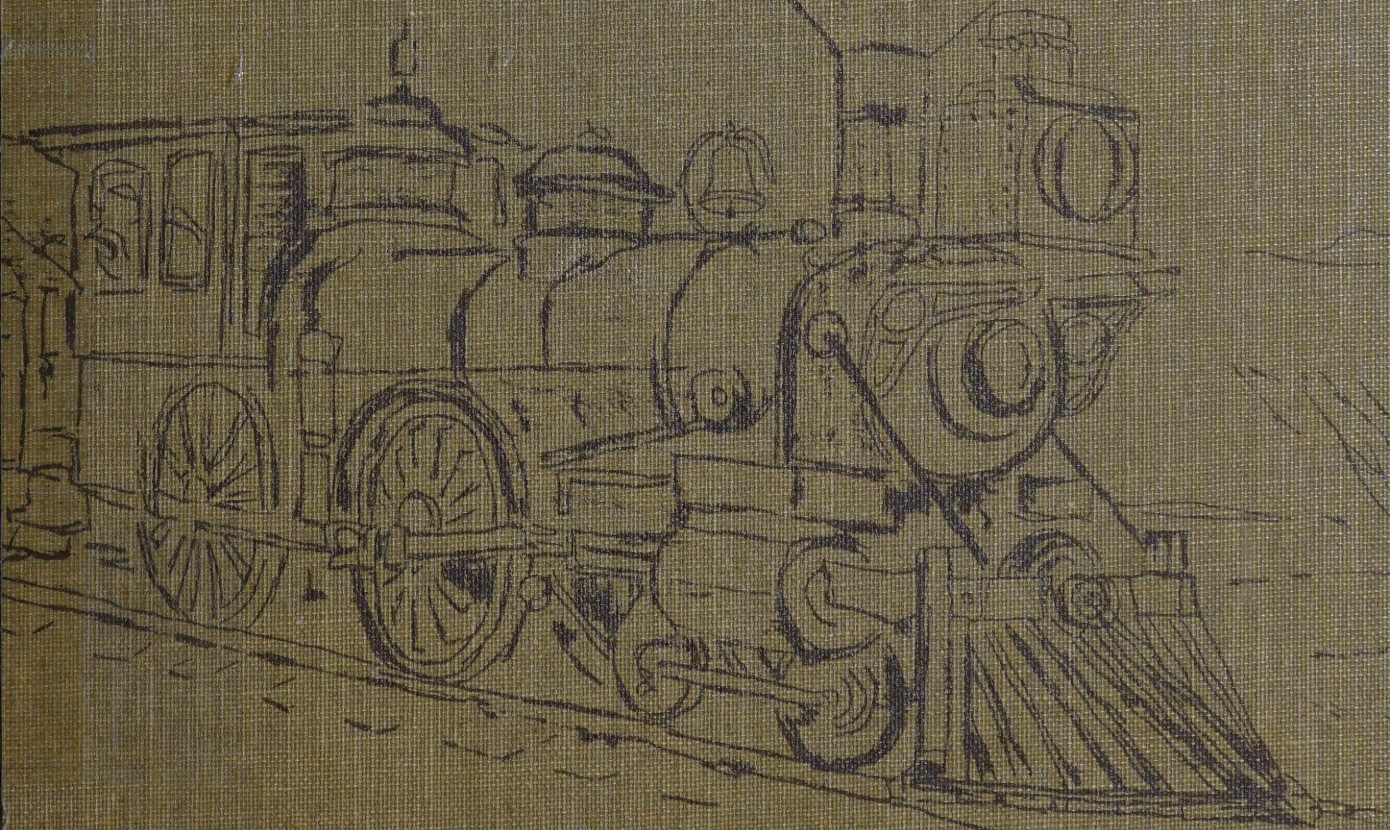




VEGREVILLE IN REVIEW



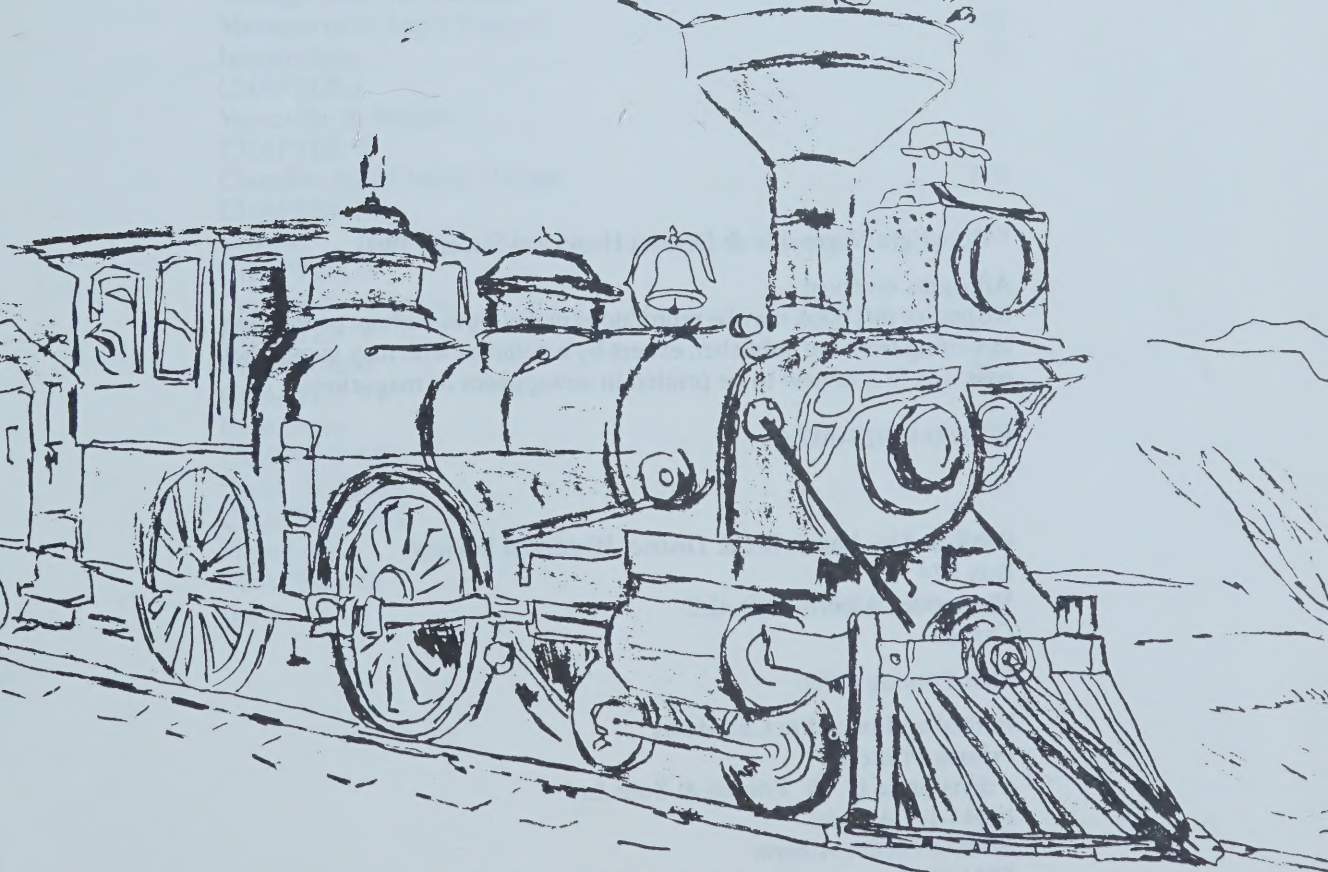
**HISTORY of VEGREVILLE
and SURROUNDING AREA 1880-1980**



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VEGREVILLE IN REVIEW



**HISTORY of VEGREVILLE
and SURROUNDING AREA 1880-1980**

Volume I

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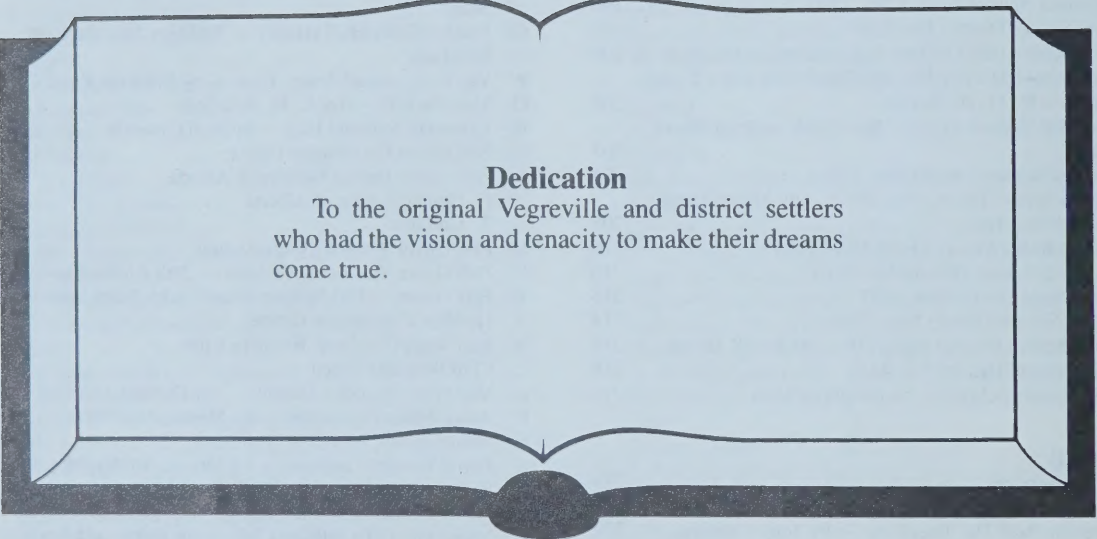
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Dedication

To the original Vegreville and district settlers
who had the vision and tenacity to make their dreams
come true.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge with gratitude and thanks the many forms of assistance we received from the following sources in preparing this review: grants from New Horizons, Alberta Culture, Town of Vegreville, and County of Minburn; Vegreville Observer; Park Grove Echoes; The Ukrainian Pioneers' Association of Alberta; Dr. S. Hardin; J. M. Lazarenko; Provincial Archives; Glenbow Institute; all contributors for their written submissions and photos, last of which we may have used in different sections of the book; Mrs. Betty Lowe for the use of her home as headquarters for our operation; and Al. Granger, Friesen Representative.

Since many of the stories are founded on memory, we cannot accept any responsibility for their veracity. Therefore, the publisher and the writers will not be liable for anything printed in this book.



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Dorothy Sanford — Assistant Editor.



Georgina Tomy



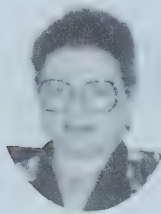
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Elizabeth Durie



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Jean Kelly



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Anna Pidruchney



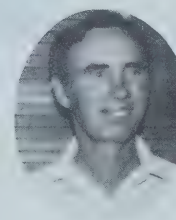
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HOUSE OF COMMONS

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VEGREVILLE

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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

OTTAWA
October 12, 1979

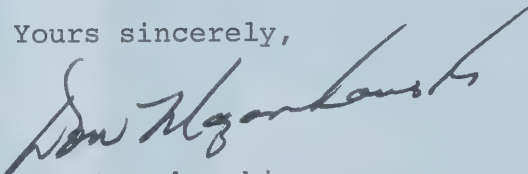
Mrs. John Lowe
Vegreville & District Historical Society
Box 274
Vegreville, Alberta
TOB 4L0

Dear Mrs. Lowe,

I warmly commend the members of the Vegreville and District Historical Society for their efforts in publishing this history of Vegreville and District. There is no doubt that this narrative will be invaluable to scholars in years ahead and of abiding interest to all of those now associated with the town of Vegreville and its environs.

Congratulations!!

Yours sincerely,



Don Mazankowski.



VEGREVILLE (403) 632 2855



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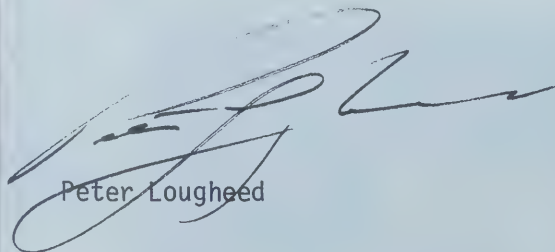
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5K 2B7

MESSAGE FROM PREMIER LOUGHEED

I was delighted to learn that the Vegreville and District Historical Society have undertaken the task of writing a history of the Vegreville area, and I welcome the opportunity to extend greetings and congratulations to you, both personally, and on behalf of the government of Alberta.

Too often, the experiences of our pioneer ancestors are unknown to present generations and, consequently, their hardships and accomplishments are not fully appreciated. Community histories are both entertaining and instructive, and I know your book will be an important contribution to the preservation of Alberta's proud heritage.

Best wishes to all of you as you reflect the proud past of your community.



Peter Lougheed



The strength of a people lies in their history and it is through the conscientious study of the past that we learn lessons for the future. History is often lost in an ever changing world, and the Vegreville and District Historical Society is to be commended for its efforts to record the annals of the past and to preserve them for future generations. The Vegreville district is a dynamic area and it will be of interest to all readers to review past events and speculate on future changes.

May I extend sincere congratulations on the accomplishment of an exceedingly difficult task, and offer best wishes to all readers for many hours of enjoyable reading.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. S. Batiuk".

John S. Batiuk, M.L.A.



Town of Vegreville

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OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR

June 27, 1980

Knowing the history of our community is interesting and important to know, I would like to commend the Vegreville and District Historical Society for the time and effort they are giving in compiling the history for Vegreville and District and making the history book possible.

I am looking forward to reading the book and I am sure the book will be enjoyed by our children in the years to come.

Yours very truly,

L.W. Ruptash

L.W. RUPTASH,
Mayor



Introduction

by **Michael H. Tomin**

“A wise nation preserves its records.” **Joseph Howe**

When we like anything, we cannot know too much about it, and our interest grows by what it feeds on. Of nothing is this truer than our own community. Our lives are intimately connected with our community, a place that is the product of the “toil, sweat and tears” of our pioneer forebears. That is why an interesting history is a great resource; it inspires affection for and gratefulness to our forefathers.

Therefore we salute our pioneers. It is but proper that their hardships and heartaches, along with their hopes and accomplishments, should be recorded in print so that those who follow may learn about their ancestors.

Writing “Vegreville — Looking Back” was a pleasant challenge. My research produced some conflicting and discrepant dates and information. I do not vouch for the authenticity of all information; however, I have attempted to record what I believe is correct. Hopefully this end product does have some reliability for historical importance.

I shall give the reader a condensed view of as many different topics as possible.

“A story without dates is a mystery; a story with dates is a history.” I shall endeavor to use as many dates as possible, hopefully, to pinpoint certain periods.

If I have inadvertently omitted any names or incidents worthy of mention, I beg your indulgence.

I wish to acknowledge the following sources of information for this article: Stan Reid, Vegreville Observer, History of Greater Vegreville by Dr. S. H. Hardin, and publications by the Town of Vegreville and the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce.

Vegreville in Review

— VEGREVILLE —
LOOKING BACK
by Michael H. Tomyn

Old Vegreville

Vegreville is located on Highway 16 on the Yellowhead Route. It is 60 miles (100 kilometres) east of Edmonton and 100 miles (160 kilometres) west of Lloydminster. It is the centre of a large farming, trading, and ever-expanding industrial area.

But there were times when things were different.

Now to define two names: "Old Vegreville" will refer to the original hamlet and "New Vegreville" to the present town.

What made people come to this part of the province?

They came from the U.S.A. because drought and poorer land forced them to emigrate. They came from Eastern Canada and the British Isles, some to seek adventure but most to take advantage of the vast expanse of country and the opportunities it offered. They came from Central Europe because of oppression, poverty and lack of freedom in their homeland. Through publicity they all had heard of cheap homestead land that could be bought for \$10 a quarter-section. So they all came, first in trickles and then in droves.

The immigration came in three waves: before World War I, in the 1920's, and after World War II.

The first wave, the biggest one, accounted for most settlers in the Vegreville area. The second brought in some settlers, just before the economic depression. The third wave had very little impact on Vegreville since most of the people settled in larger urban centres.

The original hamlet, "Old Vegreville," was located in townships 51 and 52, range 15 W 4, 4 ½ miles south-west of the present location. On the undulating banks of a creek known in the earlier days by many as Wah-Ski-Wa or Wash-E-Way, and by others as Birch Creek, the little village made its appearance. Although the hamlet had buildings on

four quarters of land at the crossroads, most of it was located on S.W. 2-52-15 W 4. The hamlet existed from 1900 to 1905.

Birch Creek meets Vermilion River on S.E. 1-52-15 W 4 (P. Bienvenue's farm). It is the Vermilion River that flows, and sometimes overflows, through the new town.

The first settlers of Old Vegreville were a group of French Canadians from Kansas, U.S.A., who had heard of the fertility of the land. They included Joseph Poulin, Benoit Tetreau, Octave Houle, and M. Letourneau. After waiting for a snowstorm to subside, the group, accompanied by Father Morin, eventually arrived at the site of Old Vegreville on April 21, 1894. Charmed with the location, they selected a section of land each and returned to Edmonton where they filed the necessary claims, assembled provisions and equipment, and were then joined by Alphonse Ruet and Eugene Poulin.

The caravan, without Father Morin this time, again travelled east past Fort Saskatchewan, and eventually reached their destination on April 29, 1894. The following month the first two women arrived, Mrs. Joseph Poulin and her daughter, Eugenie (later Mrs. Pelletier). A short time later, Mrs. O. Houle and Mrs. B. Tetreau came to the district with their families.

These pioneers sowed the first crops and vegetables in the spring of 1894.

Going to Edmonton for supplies, a distance of sixty miles, was a big drawback. The trip took up to two weeks, there and back. Mud on Jasper Avenue, high water in Ross Creek, muskeg and swamps, and mosquitoes contributed to the hardship.

On June 14, 1894, the first Catholic Church service was held. On July 4 Father Dorias of Lamoureux (near Fort Saskatchewan) buried a child, the first death in the colony. On July 5 a school was opened one-half mile south of what was to become Old Vegreville. It was called the Independent Catholic School and M. Theroux was appointed

teacher. In 1904 Mr. Lawrence was the teacher, residing in the hamlet.

In April, 1904, the first Catholic Church was completed, situated just south of the Catholic School. It was a long log building covered with sod. Bishop Legal blessed the church. Father A. Bernier became the first resident priest.

The local cemetery was located on a hill east of the school grounds. Some monuments mark the location today, although neglect is apparent.

In April, 1895, more families arrived to take up residence in the colony: Mrs. Menard, daughter Philomene (later Mrs. Eugene Poulin), Eugene Pelletier and Henry Poulin.

In 1896 the colony was assisted by the federal government when two bush fires destroyed buildings, lumber and crops, leaving the pioneers destitute.

Shortly Father J. Garnier joined the colony. As early as this time the two priests, Fathers A. Bernier and J. Garnier, were charged with the care of missions at Warwick, Brosseau, Duvernay, Lafond, Birch Lake, and later Ranfely, Vermilion and Lloydminster.

Subsequently both priests played an outstanding role in St. Martin's Parish in New Vegreville.

The colony chose the name of "Vegreville" as a tribute to Father Valentin Vegreville, a Roman Catholic missionary who served with dedication and dis-

tingtion for fifty years, beginning in the early 1850's. The Oblate Fathers of St. Albert had helped the new colony quite often, and it was only fitting that the name be chosen. Father Vegreville never served right here in the Vegreville area, but was not too far away. Besides being known as an outstanding servant of God, he is also credited with encouraging settlement in this part of the province. He died in 1903 and his remains rest at St. Albert.

The same attractive scenery, the rich soil with its wooded areas, which drew the French settlers, also attracted English settlers from Eastern Canada and the U.S.A. Their years of struggle in the new settlement were comparable to those of the French pioneers.

The first English settler to take the "Lone Trail" to Old Vegreville was Edward Dennis, who, with one of his three sons, Glen, came via Edmonton in 1894. He had a fairly good idea of what early farming would be like, so he brought along horses, plows, mower, rake, etc. Finding that Township 51, Range 15 W 4 was held temporarily in reserve for the French colony, he decided to settle a bit north, on N.E. 4-52-15 W 4. Within a few months his two other sons, Frank and James, secured their homesteads, south and next to their father's land. Even today this is some of the best land in the Vegreville area. It is characterized by its gentle southern slope, few sloughs, and rich black loam.

Looking east, the Dennises could see the hamlet springing up.

The big Dennis house was used to accommodate people moving into the district. People had to buy their meals, provide their own blankets, and sleep in the outbuildings. This stopping place became the centre of community activities. Church services were held regularly at the Dennis farm by Rev. R. Finlay who, since 1901, was the Methodist minister for the whole Beaver Lake area. He stayed for some time at the home of Willis Cole, later moving to the home of H. Deby, an immigrant from Belgium, by Beaver Lake.

The nearest post office was at Beaver Lake, sixteen miles to the west. E. Poulin and E. Dennis took turns going for mail to Beaver Lake where Major F. W. W. Fane was postmaster. The first post office in Old Vegreville was known, in some circles, as the Poulin Post Office, originally located one-half mile south of Old Vegreville, and operated by Eugene Poulin. However, in 1895, the post office was officially named after Father Vegreville.

Those were pioneer days. No railroad was nearer than Edmonton, and trails were often impassable. Consequently the necessities of life often became luxuries.



Father Valentin Vegreville, O.M.I. Born in France, September 17, 1829. Died at St. Albert, July 9, 1903. Was taken prisoner during the Riel Rebellion, 1885. Served as missionary in Western Canada for fifty years. The Town of Vegreville (originally a colony) chose the name as a tribute to him. Photograph courtesy of Photograph Collection, Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Mr. Dennis was followed by other sturdy men. Mr. Geo. L. Cole, a well-to-do farmer from Minnesota, with his three sons and three sons-in-law, came to the district to take up homesteads. The Cole family made it "stick," being rewarded by a good degree of prosperity, due to the application of intelligent industry to natural advantages.

Mr. Cole was followed by Messrs. Still, Wilson, Bowen, and others. Before the railway came through the area in 1905, practically all the available homestead land was occupied.

The site chosen for "first" Vegreville was a choice selection — it was high up, had a river running through it and good drainage. In comparison, "New" Vegreville, as a location, is rather poor — has many sloughs and poor drainage, and is subject to periodic flooding from the Vermilion River.

In 1902, when the hamlet began to unfold, we find businesses opening up. Robertson Bros. handled general merchandise, later sold to the Vegreville Trading Company, presided by Charlie Spence and Archie Fleming who continued in business until the new town started. Robertson Bros. then went into the implement business and succeeded so well that they won a provincial prize in the season of 1904, which was a free ticket with expenses paid to the World's Fair, St. Louis. W. Clements and Son established a large mercantile business, which they later moved to the new site. A. L. Thompsom opened up the Massey-Harris agency. The first attempt in the butcher business was made by Oscar Chiswell, who built a small pole shack about 6' x 9' with a sod roof. Since the

demand for meat was small, the building became a lock-up or jail. A corner was partitioned off and the regulation padlock was placed on the door. A good story is told of the R.N.W.M.P. who put a man in this lock-up for the offence of being drunk. During the night the man awoke and finding his quarters cold and damp, began to feel around in the hope of locating himself. He found that he was under a roof of poles, straw and sod. Raising the roof easily, he slid out gently and strolled over, to where the policeman was comfortably sleeping. Next morning the policeman was greatly surprised to find the prisoner sleeping beside him.

One of the pioneers of the town who, in no small



This is the first store in Old Vegreville. It was near the corner where Johnny Mast's farm is today, about 5 miles south-west of the town of Vegreville. 1903. The sign over the door reads — Clement and Son — General Merchants. The small building at the left was a post office and Arthur Ritchie of Edmonton was the postmaster. The second man from the left was the "son" — W. T. Clements.



Old Vegreville, about 1904, before the townsite was moved.



Old Vegreville, 1904.

degree, was instrumental in Vegreville's development was Dr. W. T. Rush who began the practice of medicine in 1902. Dr. Rush's cottage on the hill will long live in the memories of many a tired and hungry traveller who always found the latch string on the outside and a warm hearthstone within.

In 1905 Dr. Rush moved to the new town but did not practice long. Within a few years this dedicated doctor landed in Lamont where, with Dr. A. E. Archer, he established the prominent Lamont Hospital.

In 1903, speculators, seeing that the hamlet was likely to grow rapidly, had eighty acres surveyed for town lots. That year the village had five stores, one hotel, two blacksmith shops, some agency offices and a few houses.

W. Hawthorne's hotel was situated on the north-west of Pelletier's home quarter (Hans Mayer's present farm, bought in 1913). In 1904 "Shorty" sold it to Frank Morrison, who became one of Vegreville's valued citizens.

Most of the other businesses were located across the road, along the east side of the north and south road, presently bordering George Hoggins' farmstead (originally Merton Cole's land). North, across the road from the J. Poulin farm (presently Mast's farmstead), in the south-east corner of Lambert's (later Rempis') farmstead, was Eugene Poulin's store. Then, on the east road past the hotel were other small buildings and tents.

In 1904 one could find the following businesses and other buildings in the hamlet beginning with the

hotel operated by W. Hawthorne, and going north —

Store — C. Spence and A. Fleming

Restaurant — J. Cameron

Blacksmith Shop — Shorty Anderson

Store — Cole and Abbott

Store — W. Clements and Son

Post Office — Eugene Poulin

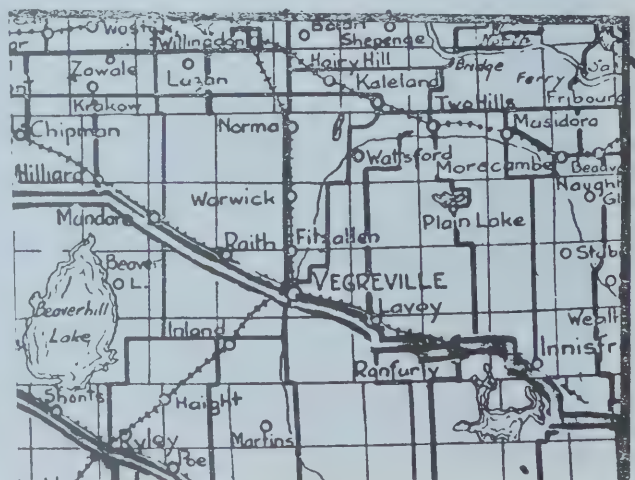
Machine Shop — A. Thompson

Machine Shop — George Robertson

Restaurant — W. Wilson

Livery Barn — W. Wilson

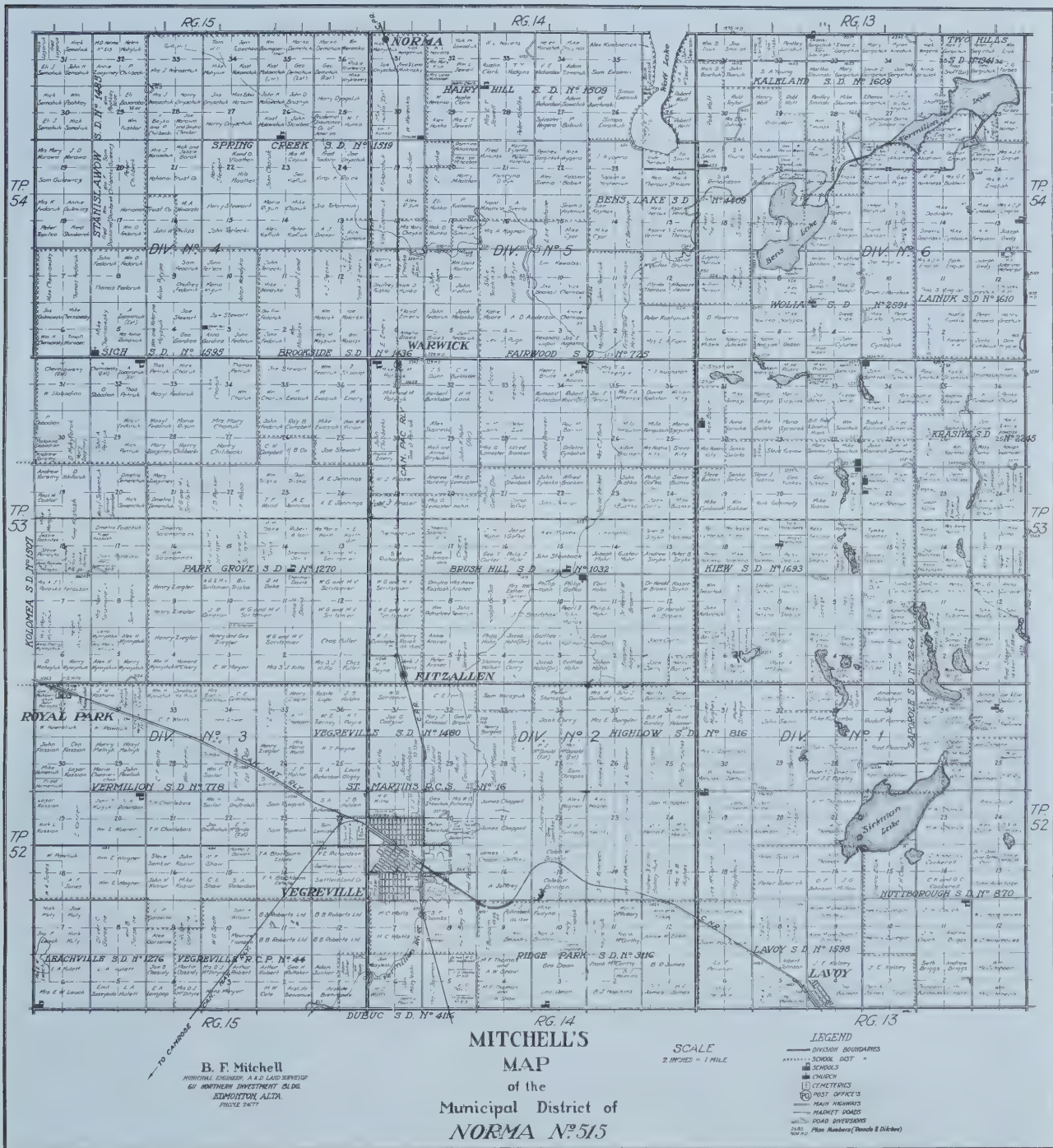
From the hotel, diagonally —



A portion of an A.M.A. Map. Early 1900's.

Store and long log house — Eugene Poulin
 From the hotel, going east —
 Butcher Shop (later jail) — O. Chiswell
 Home and Office — Dr. W. T. Rush
 Home — Rev. A. B. Argue
 Home — Mr. Lawrence, Teacher
 Police Residence — Pete Moore, Tom Nichol
 From the hotel, west across the road —

Joseph Poulin farmstead.
 In early 1905 two banks appeared. The Merchants Bank was a frame building, while the Canadian Bank of Commerce operated in a log sod-covered shack.
 (See map inside front cover.)
 The two banks had a race across the land later that year.



Then, in summary, in late 1905 we find the following buildings in business in Old Vegreville:

- 1 livery barn
- 2 restaurants
- 1 blacksmith shop
- 3 machine shops
- 1 post office
- 2 banks
- 4 stores
- 1 hotel
- 1 jail
- 1 police barracks
- 1 doctor's office
- 1 barber shop

Now to New Vegreville

The Canadian Northern Railway came through the new Vegreville site in October, 1905, four and one-half miles north-east of the original hamlet. This signalled a mass exodus to the new site because everyone realized that the railway meant progress and development. The business men, particularly, were very cognizant of the opportunity, and "like Arabs they silently stole away." The movement was completed within a short time in late 1905. Most of the transferable buildings were moved on wheels and some on skids. Within a short time nothing was left to mark the site of a community that had displayed such signs of optimism.

The Merchants Bank and the Canadian Bank of Commerce had a race to New Vegreville in November, 1905. The Merchants Bank won the race by five

minutes, so the first bank manager in the new hamlet was Cram Morton of the Merchants Bank.

The Merchants Bank was located on the site of the presenty Toronto-Dominion Bank while the Canadian Bank of Commerce occupied the location of the present Bank of Montreal.

Until 1906 Vegreville was a portion of Improvement District No. 2614. The community on the new townsite was incorporated as a village on April 15, 1906, and incorporated as a town on August 15, 1906. Population then was 344.

In 1981 Vegreville will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary.

The choice of location for the town was a bad one. In the early days it was not uncommon to see oxen straining under their heavy loads, plowing through a sea of mud on main street. The situation must have driven the teamsters to utter expressions not commonly used or heard.

Sidewalks were raised off the ground, in places three feet high. Gradually, as time passed, the town streets improved; dirt up to a yard deep was used to fill in main street and adjacent thoroughfares.

Vegreville's present location was originally Byron T. "Barney" Huyke's homestead, located in Sec. 12-52-14-W4. Somehow he was fortunate to have the Canadian Northern Railway select his 80 acres of low land for a town site. There were four big sloughs on it. This is where the business section went up. The better land, "Mount Pleasant," was subdivided for residential lots. Worth and Holden, the agents, sold



Building Canadian Northern Railway roadbed at Vermilion, 1905. Mel Dunham worked here.



First C.N.R. station, 1906.



First C.N.R. Station, about 1925.



Vegreville C.N.R. Station, and train, 1932.



Postcard showing the first C.N.R. Station in Vegreville, 1940's.



Train wreck west of Vegreville, about 1928. Morc and Glenna Kitto.



Sunshine Club Building, 1979. Formerly the C.N.R. station.

the land quickly. For his own use Mr. Huyke reserved half a block for his "Garden of Eden" where he planted spruce and maple trees and cultivated vegetables. This location is southwest from the present concrete ground water tank.

New Vegreville found itself in businesses in every enterprise, and professional men in every field. Settlement of the district, too, proceeded at a rapid pace, serving not only the immediate area but the vast expanse of country north to the North Saskatchewan River, and even beyond.

The early settlers were a cosmopolitan group — English, French, Ukrainian, German, and others in lesser numbers. They brought their own customs and culture to add to the Canadian mosaic. Initially some people felt that the different ethnic groups would end up in "a melting pot" but time has shown that the Canadian mosaic exists and persists, even being encouraged and funded by our different levels of government.

In New Vegreville, real estate sky-rocketed, reaching the astronomical sum of \$1500 a lot, an unprecedented figure for pioneer times.

The first death in the new town was that of Henry B. Fraser, a remittance man and a former veterinary surgeon, who passed away on March 12, 1906.

William Clements was appointed postmaster of the new town, operating from the side door of his store which was situated where Stedman's (5¢ to \$1.00) Store is now.

Rev. A. W. Argue was pastor of the Methodist Church.

The first village overseer was F. A. Morrison. The first town mayor was William Clements, while F. A. Morrison was first Secretary-Treasurer. Both of these gentlemen had moved their businesses from Old Vegreville to the new location. Mr. Clements was also first chairman of the Public School Board and first postmaster.

The Vegreville Observer, a weekly newspaper, was established in March, 1906, by Ben Woodhull, with W. W. Smith from Battleford as first editor. Mr. Smith had produced three issues of the paper when the plant was purchased on April 15, 1906, by owner and editor, A. L. Horton, who printed the weekly for fifty-two years. Mr. Horton, at the time of purchase, stated that he bought the paper on nerve, faith and borrowed money, his own financial resources being considerably less than zero. Presently the paper is published by his youngest son, Wilfred Horton.

A. L. Horton was a school trustee for 34 years (1905-1939) and chairman of the school board for 25 years. A. L. Horton School was named in honor of him.

At this time, prairie fires were ravaging the district, especially near Warwick.

When the new town arose, Father Bernier left Old Vegreville and directed his efforts and missionary zeal to St. Martin's Parish. In December, 1906, the R.C. Church was completed. The same year saw the organization of St. Martin's Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 16. The R.C. Convent was built in 1907 to house and educate students. Father Garnier had assisted Father Bernier since 1904.

The Sisters of Charity opened up their hospital close to the Convent in 1911. The Catholic Hospital could accommodate six patients. In 1915 the 40-bed St. Joseph's General Hospital was built, and in 1937 it was extended to 75-bed capacity. The old hospital



Nurses' Residence, built in 1964.



R. M. Boswell Hospital, built in 1907.

was used as a residence for the priests. The two latest hospitals, the St. Joseph's General Hospital, capacity 70 beds, and the Auxiliary Hospital, capacity 50 beds, were built in 1965. The Nursing Home, capacity 40 beds, was constructed in 1970. The three beautiful buildings offer extended medical services.

The Rolland M. Boswell Hospital (Protestant) was the first hospital in Vegreville, completed in October 1907. It could accommodate approximately fifteen patients. This hospital operated under the direction of the Presbyterian Church, assisted by a large donation from Mrs. R. M. Boswell of Ontario, whose deceased husband was commemorated in the name of the hospital. This hospital was located on a spot approximately two blocks south of the present concrete ground water tank. During the official opening ceremony Byron Huyke gave a deed for the land for the hospital.

Dr. G. Arthur came from Lavoy to practice at the hospital in 1907. Later he retired to Lavoy where he operated a few businesses.

In late 1918 the two Vegreville Hospitals were very busy. The Spanish flu, following World War I, afflicted many people and hospitals were taxed to the limit. The dreadful epidemic caused many deaths.

The Riverside Cemetery was organized in 1908. It has a beautiful setting by the Vermilion River approximately a mile east from the centre of town.

Life was simple in those early days, wholesome and happy. The people had none of the gadgetry we have today. Radio and T.V. were not pouring out programs ad nauseam. The auto had not yet come on the stage. Berries and wild game were plentiful. Good-humored antics were quite general, and gracefully accepted.

Two humorous incidents are worth mentioning here.

Johnny Borwick was some character. He ran the livery barn and was always a good subject to play tricks on. His vocabulary was a mixture of Indian and



General Hospital and Frank Volk's house inundated by spring flood, 1951.



Ward in Vegreville Hospital, 1927.

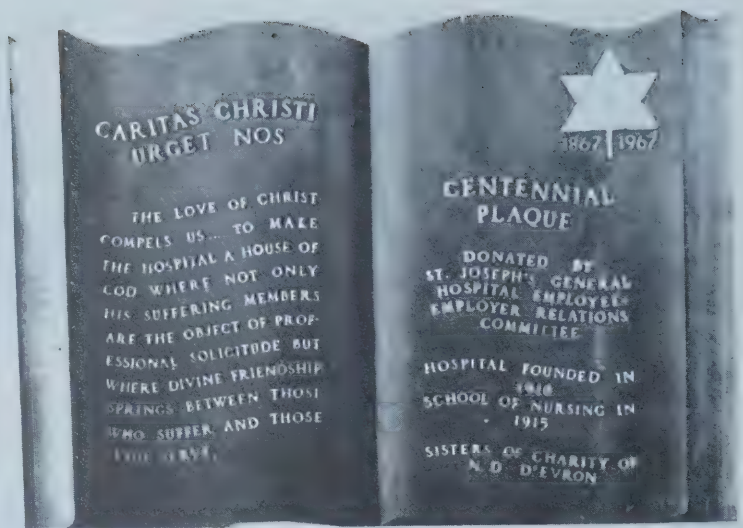


Nurses' Residence, 1934.



New General Hospital, late 1960's.

The Employee-Employer Relations Committee was established in the hospital during the month of June 1965. The purpose of this committee is to promote mutual understanding and goodwill among all employees of the hospital. All departments are represented on the committee and many projects are undertaken at both a professional and a social level. During the Centennial Year, 1967, a beautiful plaque was erected just outside the main entrance of the hospital. The plaque was to commemorate the important events in the history of the hospital and was also to outline the philosophy of the people dedicated to the care of the sick and injured.



Vegreville 1914. Looking north from spot one-half block south of highway.

English, and when angered could certainly turn the air blue. One night the boys got a small safe from the office of Fred Morrison, a lawyer, later Judge Morrison, and placed it in the hayloft of Johnny's barn. The next morning the police came around to the livery barn and stated that they were looking for a stolen safe. Of course, Johnny said, "Go ahead, I don't know anything about any safe, search the blasted place." When they found the safe, Johnny blew his top. The police were very sorry but he was placed under arrest and given an hour to arrange for a \$100.00 bail. Every businessman was horrified that the safe was found in Johnny's hayloft, but told him they could not possibly bail him out. The boys allowed this to go on for some time and then told him it was only a joke.

When the first parliament of Alberta met in 1905, James B. Holden was the representative from the Vegreville district. The Premier, the Honourable Mr. A. C. Rutherford, wrote Jim, who was a good Liberal, asking him to reply to the Speech from the

Throne. This was his first venture into public service and J.B. was at a loss as to what he should talk on. He was telling his friend Fred Morrison, a lawyer, of his predicament. "Stop worrying," said Fred, "I'll write you a speech that will bowl them over." Now, Fred was a staunch Conservative, but he proceeded to tear his party to pieces and J.B. walked the floor for many an hour memorizing the speech prepared by Mr. Morrison.

In the early months of 1906 there was nothing whatever on the north side of the track.

Taking the C.N. Railway as a starting point we find the following establishments along Main Street:

West side: the C.N.R. Station was a box car with Alf Chard in charge; the Alberta Hotel under construction by James McAllister and Sons; the A. I. Walker Lumber Company Office under construction with Fred W. Ervin as manager; a store under construction for Millar Bros. (News Advertiser location); the Canadian Bank of Commerce with W. P. Perkins as manager. We are now at First Avenue.

On the corner of First and Main was Clements & Son Store with the Post Office at the rear. Then followed an office under construction for the Vegreville Land Company comprised of George Robertson, Dr. Goodwin and T. H. Tierney; the General Store of Cole and Abbott; Fisher's Drug Store; the Real Estate Office of Kinnaird and Middleton; the Huyke Block nearing completion and later occupied by the A. I.

Walker Hardware Company which became Watson Hardware Co. South of Second Ave. was the Observer and Bill Ashdown's Tinsmithing shop, right where Ziegler Drug Mart is today.

On the East side again commencing at the C.N.R. were A. C. Lapierre Jeweller; McKenzie and Fraser General Store; Tom Tates Barber Shop; Alanson and Gully's Hardware; A. M. Thompson's Sawyer Massey Agency. From First Ave. and Main South was the Merchants Bank of Canada with C. R. Morton as manager;

Worth and Holden Real Estate Office; Joe W. Smith butcher shop; stores were under construction for J. Stanley Reid and Ira D. Worth; the Queen's Hotel, T. W. Shipley as proprietor. From Second Avenue south, Benoit-Tetreau had a store where the Treasury Branch now stands, which was occupied later by Dostaler and Lessard Hardware. A building was also under construction for T. H. Charlebois wholesale liquors right where the Blonsky and Fraser Law Firm now stands.



Vegreville Main Street, looking north, 1942.



Left to right: Town Hall, Bill Rodgers' house, Dr. Couillard's house, McLeans Garage, Dominion Fire Depot on Highway west of P.O., south side, 1940's.



Main Street, Vegreville, Alberta, 1907, looking north.



Vegreville, Main Street, west side, early in 1900's.



Frank St. Peters just back from a coyote hunt in 1910. In front of the Queens Hotel, present Prince Edward. Note two carcasses on horse.



Alberta Hotel, built in 1908.



Main Street, Vegreville, 1912 — just before Dobbin's Block (Legion Building) was built.



Main Street, Vegreville, looking south. About 1925.



Vegreville Main Street, looking north, 1926.



Beginning of Vegreville, 1906.



Vegreville Motor Garage, about 1918.



Vegreville 1914. Looking north from spot by south water tank.



4-horse team and sleigh, about 1925. Site today is highway and Main Street.



The Jim Stanton Implement Shed, 1913. Second from right is John Wright and third from right is Jim Stanton. Others are unknown.



Old car full of early Vegreville men, and horseman. Queen's Hotel in background, about 1920.



Packing ice in Vegreville, 1911-12. Front outfit is John Wright and Nelson Muntz behind.



Indian Caravan, Vegreville. Main Street, 1908. Note Canadian Bank of Commerce (building with pillars) at centre. The scene is north from present 5¢ to \$1.00 Store.

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Stores; Six Restaurants; Two Hot-
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ery Stores; Five Lumber Yards;
Sash and Door Factory; Creamery;
Seven Grain Elevators; Two Banks;
Four Implement Warehouses; Four
Blacksmith Shops; Two Tailors; 4
Barber Shops; Two Drug Stores;
Two Hardware Stores; Four Real
Estate Offices; Four Medical Doc-
tors; Two Dentists; Three Law Of-
fices; Two Shoe Repair Establish-
ments; Two Tanneries; Two The-
atres; One Bakery; Two Tinsmith
and Plumbing Shops.
Masonic, Oddfellow and other frat-
ernal lodges; Churches: Church of
England, Union Church, Greek Or-
thodox, Roman Catholic, Baptist,
Greek Catholic; Jewish Synagogue;
Schools: Public, High, R.C. Sepa-
rate, R.C. Convent.

1925		JANUARY					1925	
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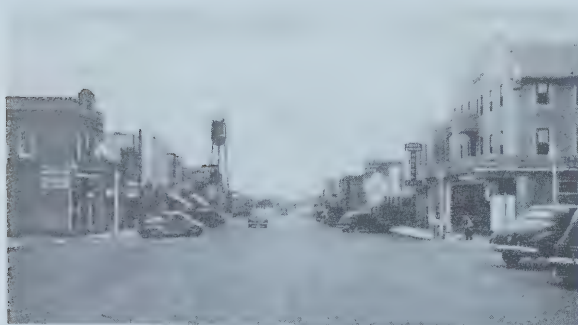
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1924-25 Booster Guide (folder).



Vegreville Main Street, looking north, 1932.

That ended the Main Street business firms as they existed in 1906.

Ransom Sill had a restaurant on Railway Avenue which was the rendezvous for all the elite of the town but Mrs. Shipley stood supreme in the meal department.

Kernohan Bros. had a livery stable on Railway Avenue; another similar establishment was on second Avenue, owned by Rose Bros., Hugh and Dave. Dan Trump Blacksmith shop was on First Avenue east and Frank Morrison's shop was on Second Avenue East, right where Alf Harkness and Steve Nikiforuk held out for years.

A lumber yard, owned by D. R. Fraser Company was located close to where Raydon Motors is now.

Dr. Rush, a pioneer physician who came over from the old town, lived on First Ave. West about

where Sam Hardin lived. F. A. Morrison, our legal light, later Judge Morrison, had temporary offices with Worth and Holden but later moved over to the Huyke Block.

It will be noted that there were no garages in those good old days. But the streets were well planted with hitching posts for the farmers' teams.

Charles Gordon was the main contractor and builder; he constructed the Queen's Hotel, the Public School and many other buildings in town.

Tom Leask, Sam Coombs and several others were also interested in construction.

In 1912 the population of Vegreville was 1500. The town had

- a modern roller flour mill.
- 3 elevators, and a flat grain warehouse.
- a sash and door factory employing 25 men.
- a brick yard employing 25 men.
- a large cold storage plant handling farm produce of all kinds.
- a creamery second to none in Alberta.
- a thoroughly equipped machine shop.
- two banks, the Merchants Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.
- two automobile garages.
- local and long distance Central Telephone Offices.
- two first-class hotels and a wholesale liquor store.
- Public, High and Separate Schools and Roman Catholic Convent.
- two hospitals.
- five churches — a Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian.
- every line of trade well represented, such as general stores, bakery, drug stores, hardware and harness stores, livery and feed stables, implement dealers, lumber yards, blacksmith shops, plumbing and tin-shop, jewelry store, real estate and insurance offices, printing office, etc.
- two law offices, dentist, four medical doctors, veterinary surgeon, photographer.
- seven lodges, viz: The Masons, Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Canadian Order of Foresters, Order of American Yeomen, L.O.L.
- five miles of sidewalks along principal residential and business streets.
- Electric Light and Power Plant (owned privately under a special town franchise).
- Exhibition Grounds which were being arranged as a Public Park.
- Fire Engine and Apparatus installed at a cost of \$10,000.00.
- a Town Hall and Municipal offices erected at a cost of \$10,000.00

Improvements for 1912 were listed as follows:

- \$80,000.00 for Waterworks and Sewage.
- \$3,000.00 for Public Park purposes.
- \$1,500.00 for street improvements.
- \$700.00 for permanent building for the Board of Trade.
- and miscellaneous municipal work undertaken at a cost not less than from \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

The total expenditures for 1912 in municipal improvements approximated \$100,000.00.

Government expenditures were set out by the Board of Trade in 1912. It took decades for some of these to materialize.

(1912 quote) “The Government of Alberta had purchased a site for a Court House at Vegreville and will erect the building in due course.

“The Government of the Dominion of Canada has purchased a site for a public building and will commence the construction of this building in 1912. It will cost \$50,000.00

“The Dominion Government has in view the establishment of a Government Experimental Farm at Vegreville. The site has been selected and all the preliminary steps completed for this.

“Vegreville is Headquarters for “C” Squadron of the 19th Alberta Dragoons, and an Armory for this Squadron is to be erected by the Department of Militia and Defence of Canada.”

Stan Reid gives the following account of Vegreville merchants in the 1930's.

“There was a small band of merchants on Vegreville's Main Street about fifty years ago who deserve a niche in the town's business history. They were the merchants of the Thin Thirties, the men whose customers didn't have very much money, merchants who faced bankruptcy every month, who were hounded by bank drafts but who opened their doors every Monday with a cheerful optimism that defies description. One would like to think that the dogged services they provided in adversity set the basis for the strong business foundation that has led to



Vegreville — looking north from south water tank, 1932.



Vegreville — looking south from north water tank, 1932.



Vegreville Main Street, about 1960.

Vegreville holding its own and thriving in the changing business world of today.

"This report doesn't attempt to go back to the early-century dawn of Vegreville's business community. It concerns itself simply with the Depression Thirties, a period like a bad dream to those who remember — but it happened.

"Facing the danger of leaving some of them out, an ever-present hazard when it comes to recollections and listings, we think of merchants like Fred Muzyka and Oscar Tunis in the Bon Ton after the Shaw family; Jack Klein, who started with a counter in the Bon Ton before moving across the street to his own store. (Jack Klein, who moved on to the hotel business north of Edmonton, was the only merchant we ever heard of who sold a prospective bride from Willingdon a complete wedding outfit and a bassinet in the same sale.)

"And there was Meyer Adler, still very much in business, who hit Vegreville in a Model T Ford, started right from scratch in the second-hand business and never looked back. There also were men like Ernie Panar, Joe Simberg, Abe Klimoff, Louis Milner, the Kieryluks and Dimy Sherbaniuk. There was the H. H. Hacker high-quality men's wear establishment and later Val Pruner, a professional tailor. In the hardware field there was O. M. Ballentyne in the Standard Hardware with Steve Soldan and Saffron Stewart; and Archie Little in the Northern Hardware. The Warren family, from father Bob down through sons George, Newt and Bob, were early butchers, followed by Money Manz and the Halletts. Andy Svarich had a little store. Joe Price, a jovial jeweller on the highway, was very disturbed one day when a runaway car smacked the side off the building and knocked all the plates off the wall. One can never forget Hank Bender and the barber shop, the information centre of the town along with the Vegreville Observer and the unforgettable A. L. Horton.

"On the drug store front there was C. E. Shaw in one store and Clayton and Jim Third in the other. In this connection, names like Nestor Carroll Cher-



Main Street - corner of present Chin's Cafe, 1907.



By Prince Edward Hotel (Queen's Hotel). Note oxen on extreme right. 1906.

niawski and Vic Shultz come to mind. In about here was Carroll McClure, a Saskatchewan native who opened the first 5¢ to \$1 store, became mayor and retired to B.C. Tom Dimos and George Kitsos ran a friendly cafe before moving to Wetaskiwin, and Wener's Bakery, operated by Emil Wener, was a popular spot.

"One mustn't forget Mah Kee in the Hero Cafe, an unsung mark for every collection drive ever undertaken by sport teams, etc.

"These early merchants, hard-pressed as they were, raised good-sized families and many of the



Alberta Hotel, built in 1908.



First Bank of Montreal, on site of first Merchants' Bank, and on site of present Toronto-Dominion Bank, 1953.



Club Cafe, east side of Main Street — site of former Co-op Store, 1920's.

children, after high school in Vegreville, went on to make their mark in professions like law, medicine, architecture, education and journalism.

"So there it is, a kind of sketchy picture of Vegreville's Main Street business community in the Thirties, not a boom decade by any measure but a story of survival in the face of adversity — a proud story."

The following 1949 picture (post World War II) shows industry and business on the increase.

Type of Industry or Business 1949	Number of Establishments
Auto parts and accessories	1
Auto, body and painting	1
Bakeries	1
Blacksmith Shops	3
Building Contractors	5
Building Supplies	2
Butchers	3
Cartage and Delivery	1
Clothing (Men's)	4

Clothing (Women's, Children's)	5
Cold Storage Lockers	1
Creameries	1
Coal Distributors	4
Department Stores	5
Drug Stores	2
Dry Cleaners	2
Dry Goods Stores	2
Egg-Grading Stations	2
Electrical Appliances and Contractors ..	3
Fruit, Confectionery and Tobacco	1
Funeral Parlors	1
Furniture Store	1
Garage and Service Stations	9
Grain Elevators	5
Grist Mill	1
Groceries	4
Hardware	3
Hatchery	1
Implement Dealers	5
Insurance Offices	4
Jewellers Shops	2
Laundry (Steam)	1
Lumber	2
Machine Shops	1
Milk Domestic Distribution	1
Oil Distributors	7
Painters and Decorators	3
Photographers	1
Plumbers and Gas Fitters	2
Pool Rooms	2
Printing Shops	1
Radio Repairs	2
Restaurants	4
Second Hand Stores	1
Sign Writers	1
Shoes	1
Tinsmiths	2
Woodworking Furniture	1
Woodworking Sash and Door	1

Education

In 1905 a meeting was held to organize a public school district. Trustees elected were William Clements, J. B. Holden and George W. Abbott. The first secretary was Fred Morrison, later Judge Morrison.

In 1906, since town status demanded five trustees, the annual meeting in January, 1907, elected the school slate, all by acclamation, the successful candidates being Messrs. W. Clements, J. B. Holden, F. Morrison, T. H. Tierney, and A. L. Horton, the last of whom stayed on the board till 1939, when he resigned. Other trustees who served in later years were I. D. Worth, Dr. H. S. Monkman, H. Olyan,

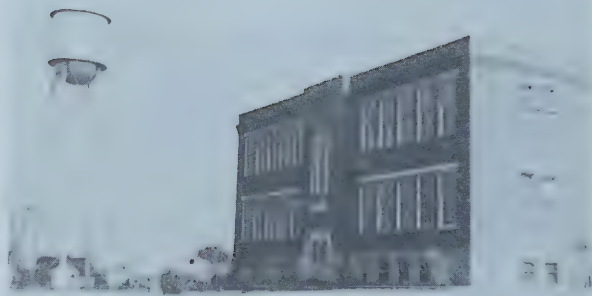
Mrs. E. E. Morton, H. H. Hacker, Dr. R. M. Reid, J. Decore, J. Fraser, P. Svarich and C. Clifton.

Secretaries of the school district through the years were F. Morrison, V. Shaw, N. McIntyre, H. H. Hacker and E. F. Morton. (See photo p. 1016.)

In the early years most board meetings were held at the Observer office and in case the secretary did not show up, which happened often, A. L. Horton acted as secretary.

The first school was held in an old shack in the summer of 1906 with Miss Ada I. Wright as the first teacher, with thirty pupils.

The first public school in Vergreville School District No. 1480 was built in 1906 and opened in 1907. It contained four rooms. The first principal was Mr. Fraser. Another four rooms were added in 1912. The gym (auditorium) was on the top, third floor. In August, 1924, the upstairs part was scorched by fire, causing \$4000 damage. The enthusiastic physical education classes shook the whole school even as late as 1957, fifty years after the school was built. The school was situated on the location of the present Dr. R. Cairns School.



Former high school, built in 1921.

The first high school was built in 1921, with four classrooms. It still stands opposite the swimming pool and is now a county school workshop.

To accommodate the ever-growing school population, the cottage school was built in 1926, just north of the public school, on the site of the first tennis court. This cottage school was later used for commercial and business courses. From 1957 to early 1960's



The first public school in Vergreville, located on site of present Dr. Cairns school. Grades 9 and 10, May, 1915. Back (l. to r.) — Maizie David, Stella Melnyk, Ena Frame, Hazel Berdan, Ruth Balaam, Ruth Long, Irene Kennedy, Lucille Walker, Alison Long, Elsie Force, May Steele, Lizzie Stewart, Bessie McHenry, Carrie Morrison. Front (l. to r.) — John , Emil Zaseybida, Herb Shaw, David David, Dick Richardson, Ivan Hepburn, , Bob Watt.

it was a Scout hut. Previously the Scouts were meeting in the school gym.

The depression years brought a halt to school construction. The school staff of one in 1906 had increased to sixteen or more in 1930.

In 1938 the divisional school system came into being. It was first propounded by the U.F.A. government but was introduced by William Aberhart, Social Credit Premier and Minister of Education. The ratepayers had no option in this change from small school districts to school divisions.

Vegreville School District did not join the school division until 1950. The board at that time consisted of H. Olyan, Chairman, T. Casson, A. E. Gudmundson, A. T. Mandruk, and W. N. Pidruchney. E. F. Morton was secretary. Wallace Kennedy was secretary of the school division and later the county from 1938 to 1969 when he retired. On January 1, 1965 the County took over the operation of school and municipal matters, and administration is somewhat different.

On Friday, June 2, 1939, many of the town school children journeyed to Edmonton to see King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Many country children travelled by cattle truck since no one had yet heard of school buses. From their bleacher vantage points on Portage Avenue (immediately renamed Kingsway) they caught a glimpse of the royal couple as it slowly passed by in the open limousine. An unforgettable sight!

Within the past three decades Vegreville has witnessed the building of several new schools to accommodate the ever-increasing school population, first the children from the surrounding rural areas, and more recently from the expanding urban population.



Grade 1 class won a cup for an action song in the "Festival" 1925-26. Teacher — Miss Lillian Goodwin. The old brick Public School is torn down now and the School for the Retarded is built in its place. Back row (l. to r.) — Allison Horton, Nellie Richards (Dumont), Jean Cooper, Rebecca Combs, Helen Kieryluk, Peggy Rice (Atcheson), Anastasia Zaseybida. Front row (l. to r.) — Evelyn , Winifred McMaster, Nataika Svarich, Marguerite Hayter (Tetreau), Helen Fitzallen, unknown, Lorraine McIntyre (Thomkins).



Vegreville High School Grade XII graduating class, 1928. Back row (l. to r.) — Wm. Hayhurst, principal, Peter Myroniuk, Solomon Milner, Eugene Svarich, Nestor Cherniawsky, Jean Morrison, Ralph Schragg. Front row (l. to r.) — Marvel Cole, Barbara Russell, Anna Sand, Kathleen Horton, Vera Elashchuk, Dorothy Harkness.



Vegreville Public High School, about 1925, (still standing on 49 St. in 1979). Back row (l. to r.) — Rita Wilson, Helen Reid, Vi Hayter, Verda Dean. Middle row (l. to r.) — Ruth McLary, unknown, Eva Wilson, Melvie Korstad. Front row (l. to r.) — Annie Kieryluk, Dora Dean, Twig Horton, Dorothy Harkness. The car may belong to Ruth Balaam, teacher.



High School Class, 1943. Front (l. to r.) — Ruth Freebury teacher, unknown, Betty Third, Vera Bushko, unknown, Janet Ashmore, Richard Sherbaniuk, Gordon Strong Principal, and Daphne Garrison — teacher. Middle row (l. to r.) — Donald McCallum — teacher, Bill Hurlburt, Stan Kuzyk. Back row (l. to r.) — (on chairs) Walter Wapman, Stan Headrick, Nipper Olyan, Jack Beacom, Mary Hughes, unknown, Lila Ferguson.



Vegreville High School students, 1930-31. The principal was William Hayhurst. Teachers were Edwin Miller, Miss McLennan, Ada Wright and Mollie Grant. Teachers are standing, third row on the left.

Peter Svarich School, built in 1951, was first a high school that replaced the one built in 1921. Presently P.S. School has grades four to six. Queen Elizabeth School, built in 1953, has kindergarten to grade three. A. L. Horton School, built in 1957, accommodates grades seven to nine. The Composite High School, built in 1965-66, offers academic and vocational courses in grades ten to twelve.

St. Martin's School, in the Vegreville Catholic School District #16, offers grades one to nine. It is an older building, built in 1914 and added to in 1952.

St. Mary's School, built in 1964, also in the above school district, handles kindergarten to grade six.

Dr. R. Cairns School was erected in 1962 and added to in 1970. It is located on the site of the first eight-room school.

The total school population of Vegreville exceeds 1400.

1979-1980 School Principals:

- Composite School — E. Katerenchuk
- A. L. Horton School — W. Chernishenko
- Peter Svarich School — J. Misik
- Queen Elizabeth School — S. Kuchik
- Dr. Cairns School — Mrs. D. Ursulak
- St. Martin's School — G. Spak
- St. Mary's School — M. Tomy

Through the years the school inspectors, or superintendents as they were later called, were: J. C.

Butchart, H. D. Cartwright, J. Loucks, M. E. Lazerte, O. Williams, A. L. Doucette, L. B. Yule, E. W. White, F. B. Facey, H. Kolesar and M. Gault. The present superintendent is R. Gorrie. The present Catholic School superintendent is Dr. S. Digout.

James McCrea was a colorful educator. He was principal of the Vegreville Public School for 25 years, from 1921 to 1946. He ran his school with decided firmness, a stand that paid off in first-class education.

Before the age of buses and two-room schools, many farm boys and girls were billeted in town homes, something like dormitories. Sometimes children were sent there for other reasons. The Boys' Home was the house presently owned by Mrs. P. Nestoruk, 2½ blocks south of P.S. School, but fifty years ago it had three storeys. The Girls' Home was the house east of there, later owned by E. Clements. Both houses still stand, as reminders of lively days. The Presbyterian Church operated these homes and fulfilled a very worthwhile and necessary function. Some of the former boarders have great stories to tell about the time they were there. One tall house south of Tom Boy Store, and one tall house on B. Czar's present residential lot were used for similar purposes.

Mr. Fred Kostash of Royal Park was greatly interested in education. Having himself had some higher education in his native Ukraine, he was determined that his children should receive good education. His



First Presbyterian Girls' Home. Miss Ball, the matron, 1912.



Mrs. Arthur — reading, and Flora Stewart, matron of the Boswell Boys' Home, 1912.



Directors and Students of Ukrainian Institute of Taras Shevchenko in Vegreville in 1917, which later amalgamated with Hrushevsky Institute in Edmonton. Directors (l. to r.) — Peter Melnyk, T. Goshko, Geo. Makoweychuk, Andrew Svarich, Nick Grecol, Wm. Cory, Wm. Czumer, Peter Svarich, Mike Cherniawsky, Paul Melnyk.



Boys' Home (present home of Mrs. Pearl Nestoruk is minus two storeys). Girls' Home in background. Michael Ponich — middle of back row. 1928.

six sons all received university degrees, some more than one, in the period when times were difficult. For many years the Kostash family enjoyed the unique distinction, a record, for having six children with university training in this province. The Kostash shack, "Bursa," was situated on the land where the first high school was later built. Fred Kostash, anxious that his children get the best education possible, built the shack so that his sons could live there and go to the Vegreville Public School. From 1913 to 1921 this little dwelling witnessed studious times and happy interludes. The little building was moved to make room for the High School. The building still stands as a small house on Highway 16, one block east of Raydon Motors.

The English School for Foreigners, close to the present Elks Hall, was established in 1913 and operated for five years. It provided a worthwhile service to a part of our community at the time. About 120 young men received higher education preparatory to teacher training and other fields of endeavor. The institution was a boarding or residential school which had a staff of teachers and a curriculum to meet



English School for Foreigners, June 10, 1913. First row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Stickle, Mr. Wm. A. Stickle — Principal, Nick Bachynski. Second row (l. to r.) — Joseph Stadnyk, Stephen Philip, John Hrynchysyn, Elias Kiriak, N. Shkwarok, Alex Klymochko, Pete Delawrak, Wm. Hucal, John Ruryk, Denis Moysiuk, Mike Sorochan, Alex Hryhorowich. Back row (l. to r.) — Damian Shyshlak, Alex Hryciuk, Marion Kribes.



Vegreville "Bursa" T. Shevchenko Ukrainian School, 1917. (Some children were in residence). Some people are not identified. Back row (l. to r.) — Peter Melnyk, Jack Tymchuk, ?, ?, John T. Worobets, Goshko, Mr. Wm. Hryhorchuk, ?, ?, ?, Paul Melnyk. Middle row (l. to r.) — Tom Goshko, George Makowichuk, Andrew Svarich, Nick Greckol, Bill Corry, William Chumer, Peter Svarich, Mike Cherniawski. Front row (l. to r.) — Buk, Nick Melnyk, Ann Goshko, ?, Lutzak, ?, Lutzak, ?, ?.

metriculation standards. The students wrote departmental examinations. The Presbyterian Church sponsored and supported the school. Three principals served during the five-year period: W. A. Stickle, E. S. Farr and R. V. Howard.

School Centralization began in the 1950's. Buses transported rural students to centralized schools in towns and villages. Centralization provided better educational opportunities in the form of a wider choice of subjects, but, in some instances, the great number of students has created unforeseen problems.

The Russian Sputnik jolted a lot of educators, scientists, and politicians. Immediately they felt that "we were behind" in learning. Shortly, heavier courses in science and mathematics were introduced into the schools to "catch up". However, time has shown that we "jumped the gun." Consequently, more recently the science and math subjects have been modified to suit individual schools and pupils.

Civic Affairs

The Town Fathers have changed their location several times. The first town hall was located just

west of the post office, currently the parking lot site. It housed the fire hall downstairs, and town office and meeting hall upstairs. It was built in 1907 at a cost of \$8000 and provided a utility for forty years. In 1949 a new Civic Building was built just back of the post office on Highway 16. It still stands and is used periodically for different community activities. The new Town Administration building, officially known



Vegreville Fire Hall, 1945.

as the Civic Building Complex, was built in 1973, on the site of the second tennis court just south of the Court House. It is aesthetic, commodious, and functional. It provides room for administration offices, council chambers, police offices, a public library, and other offices.

Vegreville Mayors

Fred A. Morrison/	/1906
William Clements/	/1906-08
James McNeill/	/1908-09
Dr. A. H. Goodwin/	/1909-14
A. S. Maxwell/	/1915
J. B. Holden/	/1915-18, 1926-46
Charles Gordon/	/1919-23
A. W. Fraser/	/1923-26
C. B. McClure/	/1946-51
E. F. Morton/	/1951-58
John Koshuta/	/1958-70
John Symyrozum/	/1970
Virgil P. Moshansky/	/1970-76
Larry Ruptash/	/1976-

The first fire hall was housed in the first town hall just west of the present Civic Building. The next fire hall, formerly F. Allore's garage, was acquired in the 1960's. It is situated one-half block west of the post office. In 1906 the first fire engine was named "Old Dan" after an aggressive councillor on the first town council. Dan Trump was a blacksmith by trade and a former N.W.M.P.

Some Prominent Citizens

Businessmen who started in early Vegreville and carried on for approximately half a century were J. B. Holden, A. L. Horton and A. W. Fraser.

Mr. Holden, who came to the district in 1904, was a Liberal member of the first Alberta Legislature in 1905. He was the youngest M.L.A. then and was asked to reply to the Speech from the Throne. He was mayor of the town of Vegreville for 24 years, twenty of which were served continuously.

Mr. Horton, veteran editor and owner of the Vegreville Observer, is believed to hold a record for length of service as owner-editor of any Canadian Weekly newspaper. He is described elsewhere in this article.

Mr. Fraser, when he was hale and hearty, never missed a year of activity in municipal work, Chamber of Commerce activities, Red Cross or War Bond Drives.

Other citizens have equally served with dedication.

Dr. A. H. Goodwin, a dentist, came to the original hamlet in 1904, and in 1905 moved to New Vegreville. He was always actively interested in town

affairs and was mayor from 1909 to 1914. He was the first dentist in the new town.

He built his fine big house on main street, five blocks north of the C.N.R. tracks. The house still stands. He had a certain agreement with the town that, if they wanted his services, they were to build a trestle wooden sidewalk from the present Elks Hall to his house 4 blocks north. The sidewalk had to be elevated because the area in question was one big slough, especially in springtime. It is interesting to note that Dr. Goodwin got the wooden sidewalk which served the area till the 1940's when it was replaced by one made of concrete and asphalt. Dr. Goodwin retired after spending approximately forty years in Vegreville. He died at Regina in 1964 at the age of 96.

Charles Gordon, a prominent citizen of Vegreville, built his lumber yard and sash and door factory in 1907, present site of the Co-op parking lot. He erected many homes, schools, and other buildings. The firm sold out to Imperial Lumber, that carried on the same type of business on that location till 1966. Mr. Gordon was mayor of Vegreville, 1919-1923. His fine home still stands just west of Dr. R. Cairns School. Mr. Gordon died in 1936.

Mrs. Helen F. Morton was highly instrumental in perpetuating the noble ideals of the Women's Institute. It was she who nursed the organization in its infancy and guided its destiny in later years. Mrs. Morton served on the provincial, national and world levels of the Institute. The organization has contributed immeasurably to the cultural and social advancement here and elsewhere. Mrs. Morton passed away in October, 1953.

Miss Ada I. Wright taught in Vegreville from 1905 to 1942. In 1944 the Ada I. Wright Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.) was formed in her honor. The chapter's concern is education, and it is only fitting that Miss Wright's name be so enshrined.

William "Bill" Rogers was police chief of the town for many years. His duties spanned several decades. On May 1, 1943, Chief Rogers retired, and the R.C.M.P. took over the policing of the town. After a short time of retirement, Bill Rogers passed away in 1948. (See photos p. 36 and 434.)

A gentleman, who came upon the Vegreville scene a bit later, that is, in 1911, was Charles W. Brinton. He farmed on "Brinton's Hill" for over forty years. Mr. Brinton is noted for his community work, a list quite impressive:

Member of Ridge Park School Board — 9 years
Chairman of Vegreville's first Hospital Board — 5 years

Active worker of the Exhibition Board — 30 years

Official of the Beef Calf Club — 15 years

President of the Alberta Elks' Association in 1950

Executive Member of the Red Cross, C.N.I.B. and Cancer Societies

President of the Vegreville Baseball Club

President of the Vegreville Curling Club

Mr. Brinton retired some time ago. He very much enjoys visits from friends and relatives.

Thomas M. "Beaver" Bennett was born in England on October 6, 1884. He came to Canada in 1910 and to Alberta in 1913. He spent 26 years as a desk clerk in a hotel in Vegreville and retired in 1956. He lived in Vegreville for 44 years. He passed away on October 30, 1968, at 84 years of age and is buried in the Riverside Cemetery.

"Beaver" Bennett was synonymous with the Boy Scout Movement. Beginning in 1928, he worked with the Boy Scouts in Vegreville for 36 years. The gym on the third floor of the first public school, the cottage school called "Beaver Hut" after 1957, and the Armories more recently were the training grounds for the young boys. Without a doubt, many boys of Vegreville gained immeasurably in citizenship by being Boy Scouts.

Much credit should be given to Peter Svarich for encouraging the planting of many trees which line Vegreville streets and adorn residential lots. He is the founder of the Vegreville Horticultural Society. Because of his great interest in trees, Mr. Svarich planted some evergreens on the west side of the Riverside Cemetery in 1919. World War I was over and he planted a tree to commemorate the memory of each Vegreville and district lad who made the supreme sacrifice. Today the ornamental shelter belt adds grace to a rather lonely place.

He encouraged Ukrainian settlement in the Vegreville area.

He was instrumental in establishing the first School for Foreigners. He organized many school districts, built many schools, and was Secretary-Treasurer of them at the beginning. For seven years he served on the Vegreville Public School Board. The Peter Svarich School was named in his honor.

Michael Luchkovich was the first Ukrainian Member of Parliament in Canada. He was elected on the U.F.A. ticket in 1926 and served the Vegreville Federal Constituency till 1935, when the Social Credit M.P.'s swept the province.

We had several doctors whose services were long when times were more difficult. Dr. R. M. Reid practiced medicine in our town for 41 years, Dr. A. Couillard for about 45 years, and Dr. N. Knowles for



Vegreville doctors in 1945. (L. to r.) — Dr. Svarich, Dr. R. M. Reid, Dr. A. Couillard, and Dr. Ross.

22 years. More recently we had Dr. J. F. Reid for 26 years, Dr. N. J. Kuzyk for 34 years who is still practicing, and Dr. John Lukenchuk for 23 years and still practicing.

In 1944 Dr. J. Yakimischak (Dr. Yak), who practiced medicine in Vegreville for approximately twenty years, retired to the coast due to ill health. By doing "what the doctor tells you" he is very alert and interested after all these years.

There were other doctors whose stay in Vegreville was of a shorter duration.

Miss Mary Black was a Public Health Nurse for forty years. She catered to three generations: parents, later their children, and then their grandchildren. The proper medical examination and the jab of the needle assured healthy children.

Dr. S. H. Hardin carried on his dental practice in town for over 45 years. Another enviable record! Dr. Hardin retired a few years ago and presently lives in Edmonton.

There were other dentists who worked in our town, but it is not possible to mention them all in this discourse.

There were and are many more citizens who contributed, in no small measure, to the stature of our town: James Stanton, an auctioneer for 35 years, of no mean renown; John Fitzallen, town secretary for 28 years; William Pidruchney, district agriculturist for 33 years; Harry Olyan, school trustee for ten years and chairman of the school board for nine years; C. G. Strong, teacher and later principal for approximately 40 years; Michael H. Tomin, teacher for 44 years, of which 34 were in the capacity of principal.

Community Services

A steam electric power plant was built in 1908 a mile north of town. A brick power building was



The old Power House — situated 1 mile north of Vegreville (l. to r.): Mr. Moody, Harry Johnston, Georgina Johnston. In front Georgina (Johnston) Smith, 1917.

constructed in 1912. In 1917 a new electric plant was built in the area of the present Central Wholesale. Canadian Utilities, earlier, and Alberta Power, more recently, have provided a dependable service.

North West Utilities piped natural gas into town from Viking in 1940. So, no more wood, coal, and ashes. Currently there are many producing gas wells in the Vegreville area.

In 1906 the energetic Town Fathers were instrumental in building a dam just north of the railway bridge. To their utter dismay, the dam washed out in May, 1907, and their dreams for a water reservoir went down the river.



Striking Gas at Vegreville, 1913.

Sewer and water works were installed in the town in 1912. Water was obtained from several wells approximately a mile west of town, past the present Composite High School. The south water tower was erected at that time. Later the artesian well on the farm of J.E. Powell (presently T. Rawluk), two miles west of town, supplied the town requirements. In 1930 the north water tower was built. The concrete ground water tank close to the Exhibition grounds was erected about ten years ago. The two water towers provide water pressure by gravity. The three water tanks (two tower and one ground) hold a little over one million gallons, a good reserve.

The two reservoirs, south of town, one built in 1958 and the other one in 1971, hold 100 million gallons of water each. Fluoridation of water began in 1966.

The water purification plant located by the first reservoir renders the water suitable for drinking.

The nuisance grounds or garbage disposal sites have had several relocations. In early Vegreville, garbage was disposed of in the vicinity of the present Park Memorial, up to A.L. Horton School. For many years the area just east of the present Environmental Laboratory and Research Centre was used for the purpose. In the 1950's much garbage was hauled to the present campsite, to fill in a depression made by employees of the brick plant (1909-1914), when they dug up the required clay. In the late 1960's the new nuisance grounds were acquired, one mile east of town. The area is a landfill site where no burning is allowed. There are also several lagoons for sewage.

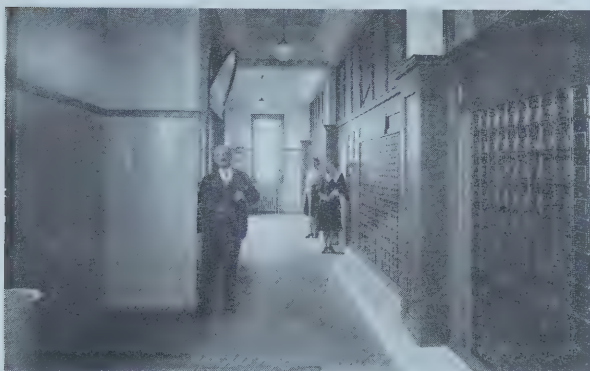
The micro-wave tower, about 300 feet high and erected in 1965, is an A.G.T. utility. It is a self-supporting landmark that can be seen from ten miles away. The spacious building has up-to-date equipment and is the headquarters for an extensive area.

The Vegreville Public Library has had its ups and downs. The growth from "operating on a shoestring" to the present library facility speaks well of many dedicated people. The history of the library is covered elsewhere in this book.

The first post office in the Vegreville area was in Old Vegreville on E. Poulin's farm; then it was moved to a little building on the east side of the street in the hamlet. After 1905 the post office operated from a side door in Clements & Son Store in New Vegreville where W. Clements was postmaster. Years later the post office was on the avenue in Dobbin's Block (south of present I.G.A.). The site where the present post office is located was a huge hole used by young boys as a slide area. The present post office was built in 1930 and extended twice since. Currently it is taxed for space; consequently some mail is distributed in town through mail boxes.



Vegreville postal — mail bags, 1927.



Vegreville Post Office, 1931. Front — Mr. Jones who was "pinchhitting" for Mr. Hines who was on vacation. At back — Ruby Richardson (in front) and Winnie Jones.

The court house was built in 1930-31 and provides a very important service. The knoll where the court house stands was a marble playing area for two decades. Here boys won and lost, acquired swarthy hands and worn-out trousers. If one were to examine the walls and front steps of the building, one would find many forms of petrified sea life in the limestone sections. The new provincial building, built in 1973, has assumed some of the functions of the former institution.

R.C.M.P. barracks have been relocated several times. For many years the R.C.M.P. were housed in a building close to the Russo Greek Orthodox Church. In 1952 the second tennis court site, directly south of the Court House, was the location of the new barracks but this building did not last long. In 1973 it was replaced by the present Civic Building Complex with the R.C.M.P. offices towards the back of the building.

The Vegreville Armouries were built during World War I. The building was a tall brick structure with an architectural design somewhat like a fortress.



Left to right: Robert Henley Sr., Tony, Bob, Kate (mother) with little Joe, and Reg by their car. In front of old Armouries, built in 1915, later replaced by newer armouries — presently Centennial Building. The 3-bedroom suite on the upper floor was Henley's first residence in Vegreville, 1931.



A Company Rifle Brigade, 1919. On public school grounds, next to first tennis court. Bill Dean was a cadet.



Officers of Militia Unit in Vegreville, about 1935. Back row (l. to r.) — Austin Stanton, Barney McCrea, Syd. Ellerton and Fred Reesor. Front row — Frank Fane and Harold Kennedy.

A new Armouries building was built about 1955 and was used till 1967, when it was taken over by the town. It is presently called the Centennial Building and is used for a variety of community services and functions. The Armouries were used during both world wars for military purposes. The parade grounds are presently the site of the Masonic Lodge and two churches.

Chamber of Commerce

The Vegreville Board of Trade was organized in 1906 with C.R. Morton as President and Fred A. Morrison as Secretary. The early Boards were active in promoting business opportunities in the town and enticing homesteaders to settle in the surrounding area. Their first office, a small building built in 1912, eventually landed at the golf course about forty years later.

The Board had its ups and downs. Some early years were busy but many were inactive, if not dormant.

After 1925 things began to perk up. There was lots to do during the economic depression and the Board did its part — a lion's share. In 1929 it changed its name to Chamber of Commerce and thus qualified for affiliation with the national body, a bond which has continued to the present time.

Down through the years many good men whose

names are legion, joined hands in an effort to build the town and district.

The Current Chamber of Commerce President is L. Bauer and Secretary is H. Chomik, who succeeded P.M. Shavchook, who passed away suddenly after six years of devoted service.

Fairs

The local fair was first held in 1903 on the Dennis Brothers' farm where a brand new barn accommodated all entries: vegetables, grain and handiwork. The cattle and horses were exhibited in the farmyard and a race track was laid out in a nearby field. This fair was known as "Beaver Lake and Vermilion Agricultural Society."



Vegreville Fair, about 1913. Morc Kitto with prize horse and colt (in line-up).



Vegreville scenes — early 1900's.



Vegreville Exhibition Parade, late 1930's. The leading horse was William Lemiski's milk horse ridden by Mr. S. T. J. Ellerton (Commercial teacher). Mr. Ellerton was married to Mrs. J. E. Reidlinger's aunt, Mary Stewart, sister of the late Joseph Stewart of Warwick, Alberta. Photo taken from top of curling rink looking west toward armouries.



Vegreville Exhibition Parade, 1956, heading east on Highway 16, nearing Post Office corner; C. Brinton, Parade Marshall, riding with his sister Margaret Mylrea, a visitor from California and former resident of Vegreville. Michael Tomy, on ladder — bottom left.



Harvey Hayduk and Chas. Brinton acting as clown clean-up men in Veg. Exhibition Parade, 1950's.



Margaret Mylrea (nee Brinton), honored guest from California, leading Veg. Exhibition Parade south on Main Street, about 1958.



4-H Beef Sale. Deryk Ziegler on bottom right hand corner with Grand Champion, Marlene Melenka with Reserve Champion, 1966.

The following year, in 1904, the fair was held near Old Vegreville on the farm of Joseph Poulin (Mast's farm today). The exhibits were much the same as of the year before, except for an added attraction — a horse-driven merry-go-round.

Following the exodus to the new town in 1905, the fair was held for a number of years on the J. B. Holden farm, approximately 1 mile north-west of town. The site is one-half mile north-east from the new Environmental Laboratory and Research Centre, and north-east from the area that was used as a garbage disposal site till ten years ago. The land was rented for the fair but as the treasury was always bare, the fee was never paid.

After some years the name was changed to Vegreville Agricultural Society and the buildings were moved to the present location.

Earlier there were no midway or grandstand attractions. Events included baseball, athletic competitions and horse racing. When lean years caused the directors to cry for help, the town bailed them out.

The first arena, built in 1925, on the site of the present Livestock Pavilion, was destroyed by fire in 1926 and a new one was erected in 1927. The new exhibition formula provided federal grants, the money to be used to erect barns, additional buildings and grandstand. Initially the town owned the property, but later the town turned it over to the Vegreville Exhibition Association.

Today the exhibition is an attractive event, with a midway, grandstand performances and all types of exhibits. The fair lasts for three days during the middle of summer. The new recreation centre, built in 1961, accommodates many facets of the annual event. (See p. 557.)

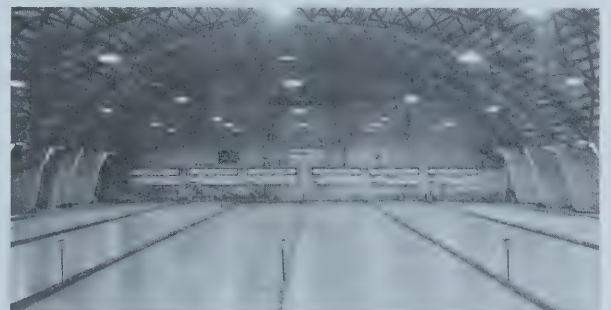
The Chautauqua, a touring form of entertainment, is described elsewhere in this book.

Sports and Recreation

In 1906 an Athletic Club was formed with Lace Gully as president; M.A. Worth, vice-president; Alf Millar, secretary; Charlie Spence, manager. The club was to organize baseball and association football.



Grandstand and Exhibit Building on old Fair Grounds, 1 mile west of town, 1913.



Curling rink built in 1954.



Vegreville Hockey Club, 1908-09: Chis Clements (lower left) — H. H. Hacker (centre right).



The Old Vegreville Hockey Team, 1944. Back row (l. to r.) — Leslie Collison, Hargrave Brennan, Geo Bourgette (coach), Andy Wasyleski, Raymond Tetreau. Middle row (l. to r.) — Philip Bienvenu, Joe Poulin, Kit Dubuc, Theo Bienvenu. Front row: Roger Bienvenu, Robert Robert.



Vegreville Women's Curling club, 1917. Top row (l. to r.) — unknown, Mrs. Butchart (wife of school inspector), Nellie (Humes) Halderman (had a movie theatre across from Observer office), Mrs. J. Robertson, Mrs. Andy Hepburn (rode a beautiful gray horse called Roxy; rode in a divided skirt), Mrs. Hamseus (had bakery). Middle row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Lane, Mrs. McIntyre, Miss Laura Worth (sister-in-law of J. B. Holden), Mrs. J. Morrison (fine seamstress), Mrs. Jack Rogers (wife of town constable), Mrs. Harry Pozer. Bottom (l. to r.) — Mrs. Spencer (Spencer's Studio), Mrs. Tom Casson (wife of butcher), unknown, Mrs. Ira Worth (jewellers on Main St.), Mrs. Jonathan Davis (husband killed in train accident).

The latter was short-lived but baseball lasted for over sixty years. Baseball was played at the Vegreville Fairs and at tournaments in town and elsewhere. At one time, for a long time, Vegreville boasted of a top-notch championship baseball team.

In 1907 the Citizens' Band lost a drummer on Main Street. He was standing towards the back of the wagon. When he beat the opening bars with much gusto, the horses stampeded and he fell off on the street.

The first curling rink was built in 1908 on a site across the back lane from the present Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The rink with its three sheets of ice, and since 1932 with its five sheets of ice, served the community for approximately fifty years (1908-1954). The new rink, with six sheets of artificial ice, was built in 1954. It is located on 52 Avenue just north-west of the National Hall. Curling is a real gentlemen's game and has added immeasurably to the community spirit.

The first golf course was located on the present C.P.R. right-of-way near the fair grounds. Later it was relocated one mile west of town, just south of the present Environmental Laboratory and Research Centre. The area was Sam Towpich's pasture, a situation that accounted for some problems. Golfers used it for about twenty years. For the last thirty years, approximately, the Vegreville Golf Club possesses a fine nine-hole layout and an attractive club house, and a large membership. Golf is another sport that spells camaraderie and engenders clean wholesome fun.



Swimming pool built in 1945.



Swimming pool, built in 1945. Note Anglican Church by south water tank.

The first skating was done on the river. Around 1910 a skating rink was built just south of the first curling rink. The first skating arena, built in 1925, was destroyed by fire in 1926. A new arena, built in 1927, is still used, and is presently called the Live-stock Pavilion. Many hockey games, some of the championship calibre, were played in this facility. In 1961 the new Recreation Centre was built. It has artificial ice in winter for hockey and skating, and in summer, during the annual exhibition, is used as a commercial, food outlet, and exhibit area.

Not everyone knows that we did have tennis courts in the past. The first one was located where Parkview Manor (Lions' Senior Citizens' Home) is now. It disappeared due to the erection of the cottage school in 1926. Shortly after, another tennis court was set up on the site of the present Civic Building Complex (Town Administration Building). It too disappeared around 1950 because of lack of interest in the sport. The second police barracks were erected on the site in 1952. Lastly, in 1979, the newest tennis court was set up close to the Recreation Centre.

The town swimming pool was built in 1945, under the chairmanship of George Black. At the time it cost approximately \$40,000. It has served the community for 35 years and, no doubt, will soon have to be replaced.

The Elks' Pond, a scenic site close to the hospital, provides trout fishing opportunities for children and senior citizens. Schools and parks have different kinds of playground equipment and facilities.

The town does possess varied facilities for sports and recreation.

To get some type of outdoor recreation many citizens went to Birch Lake a mile south of Innisfree, or to Sick Man Lake, approximately two miles north

of Lavoy. As early as 1910 we find some people going there to swim, boat, picnic, hike, and camp. Elk Island Park, sixty km. west of Vegreville, is a local and tourist attraction. With modern means of travel, people can travel farther for recreation and enjoyment — until the energy crisis strikes.

Transportion

As mentioned before, the first railway to reach Vegreville was the Canadian Northern which arrived in 1905. The Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway were amalgamated in 1920 to form the present Canadian National System.



First C.N.R. Station, built in 1906.



1941 fire which demolished National (formerly British American) Elevator operated by Clarence "Jeff" Schmidt, NW corner CN tracks and Main Street; old water tower and north-side businesses in background.



Vegreville C.N.R. Station and grain elevators, 1927.

The first C.N.R. station was built in 1905-6. The platform was high off the ground because the area was low and wet. The new station, a much larger one, was built in 1930. It still stands, part of it being used for C.N. purposes while the greater portion of it has been remodelled into a senior citizen drop-in-centre, called the Sunshine Club. During the 1920's, but especially during the hungry thirties, the freight trains were crowded with transients. Passenger trains ran through Vegreville till 1970, followed by a dayliner (one-coach affair) for about six years.

In the 1920's there were seven grain elevators on the C.N. line. At that time it was not uncommon to see twenty to thirty wagon- or sleigh-loads of grain waiting in line to enter the grain elevator.

Today Vegreville has no passenger rail service. Lack of interest in train travel made the service a non-paying proposition. Today people travel by car, bus, and plane.

The first station agent was Alf Chard and the present one is Bob Sherman.

Trains changed from coal to diesel about twenty years ago.

The C.P. line from Willingdon reached Vegreville in 1930. A railway station and three grain elevators soon abutted the line in town.

Along the C.P., railway hamlets and grain points sprang up: Norma, Warwick (3½ miles west of Old Warwick) and Fitzallen. The Vegreville C.P. station

was closed in the late 1960's and the rails were removed in 1979 and 1980. So ends another story about a transportation service that came, lasted for fifty years, and then disappeared.

Fred Laing, the first C.P.R. station agent, retired in 1955 after twenty-five years of service. Jack Spence worked in that capacity from 1955 to 1968 when the station was closed.

The Vegreville-Camrose railway was built in 1910. Currently it has fallen into disuse, again because of lack of business. Its days are numbered.

Today Vegreville has four grain elevators. The C.P. line through Willingdon and Two Hills cut sharply into the grain business in Vegreville.

South across the tracks from the Pool Elevator was a freight shed that was used from 1906 to the early 1950's. The freight was stored there, pending subsequent distribution. In 1925 one could buy a farmer's sack of apples there for \$1.00.

The market place was located on the north side of the highway directly north from the first Tom-Boy Store. It catered to farmers near and far, who fed and rested their horses there. In cold or inclement weather the farmer would put his horses in one of several livery barns in the town. The market place site was later sold for different businesses, and the new market place, just east of the seed-cleaning plant, was short-lived. Cars and trucks had sounded the death-knell of old dobbin.

The Model A Ford with its windows was a great improvement over the Model T. Ford with its side curtains.

"Bennett" buggies, cars drawn by horses were quite common during the depression.

Main Street was paved in 1956 and side streets and avenues a few years later. As years go by, more paved thoroughfares are built.

Highway 16 going through town was gravelled in 1927 and paved around 1951. It was widened and resurfaced in the early 1970's.

Modes of transportation change with the times. Today travel is faster and more comfortable. Ox, horse, car, truck, train — some of these have played and some are still playing their part. However, air travel is definitely on the upswing.

The Vegreville Airstrip, sponsored by the Jaycees, opened in 1965 one mile north-east of town. In 1971 it was taken over by the town. The facilities have been expanded to accommodate bigger planes. The Vegreville Flying Club and some local pilots own planes, some of which can often be seen in the skies over town.

Business

The Queen's Hotel was built in 1906 by C. Gordon. Later its name was changed to National and then



1941 fire which destroyed National (formerly British American) Elevator operated by Clarence "Jeff" Schmidt, N.W. corner C.N. tracks and Main Street, Town policeman Bill Rogers in middle.



First car in area. 1910's.



The first Livery and Feed Barn in Vegreville, about 1907. Owned by Joe Green and Ed Chamberlain, it was situated where Raydon's Body Shop is today. Note the generous array of plush buggies and democrats that were rented out, with horses. It will be recalled that the Market Square was immediately west of there, and across the street (highway 16 today) were situated George's Grocery and Confectionery, Pete Kostinuk's Second-Hand Store, Mike Kostashuk's Feed Mill (present Felmo Tire).

to Prince Edward Hotel supposedly in honor of our then future King. The hotel was a grand structure with double balconies on the south and west sides. The first proprietor was Tom Shipley, a former member of the N.W.M.P. The Alberta Hotel was built in 1906 and burned down in 1908. It was rebuilt with Vegreville brick in 1909. Both hotels still carry on their customary business.

In the "horse-and-buggy" days Vegreville had quite a few livery barns. One such barn called the Queen's Livery Barn and built in 1904, was located on the site of the present Raydon's Body Shop building. It was demolished in 1941, after it had served its purpose. Sigler and Richardson, with offices located at the livery barn opposite the C.N.R. depot, once ran a mail service to St. Paul. This was the last barn to disappear from the Vegreville scene. Other livery barns were located as follows: north across the avenue from the Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator, north across the avenue from the Cargill eleva-

tor where the town has its storage yard, north from the seed cleaning plant, and smaller ones here and there. In the late 1920's the livery barns lost their usefulness because of the advent of the car and the building of the new C.P. Railway through Willingdon and Two Hills in 1928.

Slowly, from 1928 to the late 1940's, the livery barns disappeared. Some burned down and some were dismantled. So ended another era in our town.

Livestock was sold at stockyards. But for about thirty years livestock buyers would visit farms and buy cattle "on the hoof". It was then the farmer's chore to drive the cattle to town to the stockyards. Because of open land and other cattle, this was not always an easy maneuver.

Creameries have come and gone, but one remains. One creamery was located on the site presently the parking lot for Alberta Power. It disappeared twenty-five years ago. Another one was located on the site of the present Liquor Store. In the 1910's and early 1920's many loaded wagons got stuck in the mud between the Alberta Hotel and the creamery. The area was a bog. The new Alberta Dairy Pool, located back of the curling rink, is modern and well-equipped, and renders an important service to farmers and town people.

The Vegreville flour mill, built in 1909, was located where the seed cleaning plant now stands. Farmers from many miles around brought their wheat in to be ground into flour. The flour mill was destroyed by fire in June, 1951, after providing a very essential service for over forty years.

The site of the mill is now occupied by the seed-



Vegreville Creamery, built in 1932. Present location of Alberta Power parking lot.



Vegreville seed cleaning plant, 1960's.

cleaning plant, built in the 1950's. The function of this plant is self-explanatory.

One chop mill that carried on business for a long time was located on the S.W. corner of 49 Street and 50 Avenue, diagonally from Raydon Motors. Known as the Kostashuk Chop Mill, it served the farmers until the late 1940's.

A brick plant was started on the east part of town, present location of the campsite and Pysanka. It operated from 1908 to 1914, when it was forced to shut down because of lack of manpower and competition from Edmonton brick plants. Buildings which were constructed of Vegreville brick and still stand are the Alberta Hotel, the Legion Building (Dobbin's Block) and St. Martin's School.

In the 1920's the tannery carried on its trade across the street from the north-east corner of the Co-op parking lot. It closed its doors at the beginning of the economic depression. The smell emanating from the building can be described as not pleasant. Combine raw hides, lime and tannic acid, and you get the picture.

The Vegreville banks have played musical chairs. In 1905 the Merchants Bank of Canada was moved from the hamlet to the site where the Toronto-Dominion Bank is located. The first manager was Cram Morton, who had his living quarters above the bank, reached by a long outside stairway. In 1909 this building was replaced by a brick one.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce first conducted its business in a mud shack in Old Vegreville. The first manager was Harry Miller. After carrying on its business in a small frame building in New Vegreville, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in 1906, built a new building with big wooden pillars in



Merchants' Bank, 1906 — moved from Old Vegreville in 1905. Present location of Toronto-Dominion Bank.

front, the location being the present Bank of Montreal. The new manager was W.P. Perkins. The Merchants Bank of Canada ceased to exist in 1922 when it was taken over by the Bank of Montreal which carried on in that building till the late 1930's. The Canadian Bank of Commerce built a new building and sold the old one which became a home, still being used one-half block west of the present Bank of Montreal. In 1938 the Bank of Montreal vacated its building and bought the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The latter bank disappeared from the Vegreville scene, and did not reappear until thirty-seven years later. The former Bank of Montreal became H. Hurlburt's law office.

The Toronto-Dominion Bank started operating in Vegreville in 1950. It carried on its business in the Prince Edward Building. In 1965 it moved to its present location after Mr. Hurlburt had terminated his law practice. The present Bank of Montreal has been rebuilt twice within the last 25 years.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce recommenced its operation in Vegreville in 1975, after acquiring the site of the Jewish Synagogue.

The Treasury Branch has operated in Vegreville since 1940, that is, for four decades. Located east of the post office, the former building was replaced about ten years ago, and presently an extension is being constructed.

The Vegreville and District Savings Credit Union has also offered its services to the Vegreville public for approximately three decades.

Mr. D. Brown, the undertaker, carried on his quota of business on the location presently occupied by the new Tom Boy Store. When Mr. Brown retired he moved to B.C. His house made of morphine glass bottles, a unique tourist attraction, stands on the highway between Creston and Kootenay Bay.

Churches

Mention was made before that the first R.C. Church had its beginning in Old Vegreville in 1904, with the erection of a long log sod-covered building just south of Old Vegreville School. In 1906, under the supervision of Father Bernier, a new church was built in the new town. A newer church was completed in 1954 and a rectory added in 1962. The Parish Council was formed in 1968. This book, in another article, covers the history of the R.C. Parish. The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish was organized in 1907. A short time later the parish purchased a little church for \$1000. In 1925 this church was moved two blocks east to the present site. A bigger church was built in 1947 and the rectory in 1968. Full coverage of the parish is published elsewhere in this book.



United Church, with Memorial window of First World War, 1920.

The United Church was built in 1906, at which time it was a Presbyterian Church. It was replaced by a larger structure in 1914, and added to in 1928. In 1925 it became the United Church, taking in the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. In 1955 the church was enlarged and provided with an entrance. In 1967 it was razed, since there were no buyers or takers. A.G.T. bought the site for an extension to their buildings and for a parking area. A new United Church was built in 1969 just south of the Centennial Building and north of the A.L. Horton schoolyard. Full history is given elsewhere.

The Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church was organized as a body in 1925. The first church was built in 1934, and an addition which doubled its size was constructed in 1955. The new church just west of the United Church was built in 1972-73. Greater coverage of this parish appears elsewhere in this historical publication.

The Presbyterian and Methodist churches be-

came the newly-organized United Church in 1925, as mentioned above. The latest Anglican Church built in 1960 is situated just north of A.L. Horton School. The most recent Lutheran Church, located a block south of Homestead Lodge, was erected in 1962. The Russo Greek Othodox Church, built in 1917; the Jewish Synagogue built in 1918, rebuilt in 1931 and dismantled in 1975; the Seventh Day Adventist Church, built in 1962 just north of Homestead Lodge; and the Evangelical Church, erected in 1956 on the south side of the highway three blocks west of Main Street, have all played their customary exemplary role in our town.

Agriculture

Here we shall mention a few high-interest topics.

Two prominent farmers had successful fair-sized orchards in the Vegreville area from the 1930's to the 1960's. William Salamandick, seven miles north-west, and Jack Corrie, eight miles north-east of our town, raised many different types of fruit. Many people bought fruit from these orchards. With the passing of the two men, the orchards have disappeared.

The Vegreville district is a rich agricultural area. Many farmers have experienced tremendous success, no doubt, by using their brawn and sinew. After the provincial government announced its Master Farm Family Award Plan in the mid-1940's, we have witnessed several winners. J.F. Melenka of Warwick



One of the first self-propelled steam engines used for breaking virgin land. Farm is one mile north of town. Note the type of work clothes. 1914.



Steam threshing outfit, about 1914.



Len Ferguson presenting the 50th year plaque to Ed. Steinbach, 1979. (L. to r.) — Ed. Steinbach — Vice-President, Vegreville and District Co-op.; Alex Tymchuk, one of the original members of the Co-op.; Len Ferguson, District Director, Federated Co-operatives, Ltd.

Just as the ties of friendship are strengthened at this holiday season so may our business associations grow in mutual accord and confidence. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Star Grocery
Good Things To Eat
C. A. Richardson, Prop.

Vegreville, Alberta

Season's Greetings from Star Grocery. 1929.

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Vegreville — Alberta

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Physician and Surgeon

Post Graduate in Surgery, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto and The Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton.

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Phones: Office, 2625. House, 2751.

WESTROM, Lawton, (Thelma), Electrician, 5033 - 51 Ave. 2613
WHEATING, Lloyd, (Kathleen), Traveller, 4717 - Alberta Ave. 2317
WILSON, Roy, (Mabel), N.A.D.P., 5126 - 49 Ave.
WINNICK, Olive, Merchant, 5110 - 50 Ave. 2769
WIZNOWICH, Fred, (Marie), Lumber Yard, 5614 - 53 St.
WOY, Mary, Retired, 5138 - 43 St.
WOROBEITZ, Tom, (Maria), Retired, 5137 - 49 Ave.
WOYTKIW, Steve, (Jean), Mechanic, 4838 - 49 Ave. 2735
WOYTKIW, Mary, Retired, 4802 - 47 Ave.
WYLLIE, Sarah, Retired, 5125 - 50 Ave.
WYNNYCHUK, Harry, (Lena), Public Works, 5222 - 49 Ave. 2307
WYNNYCHUK, Robert, Clerk, 5222 - 49 Ave.
WYNNYCHUK, Mike, (Helen), Carpenter, 5137 - 51 Ave. 2650
WYNNYCHUK, John, (Nadia), Caretaker Cemetery, 5709 - 53 St.

Y

YACIUK, Jacob, (Janet), Merchant, 5018 - 49 Ave. 2081
YAKICHUK, Larry, (Rita), Electrician, 5617 - 54 St. 2771
YAKIMETZ, Wm., (Doreen), Imp. Dealer, 4401 - 48 St.
YAKIMOVICH, Frank, (Nancy), Truck, 5337 - 44 St.
YANCHYSHYN, John, (Phyllis), Mechanic, 4418 - 50 St.
YANDA, DR. R. L., (Office at the Vegreville Clinic) 2373
YANDA, Dr. R. L., (Mrs. R.), 5526 - 50 St. 2162
YAREMCHUK, Al., Mechanic, Leach Cabins.
YAREMCIO, Olga, Steno.,
YAREMCIO, Steve, (Mary), Mechanic, 4325 - 48 St.
YEWCHUK, Peter, (Pauline), Cafe Owner, Hi-Way Cafe.
YUSAK, John, (Annie), Farmer, 4709 - 50 Ave.
YURKO, Thos., Farmer, 4521 - 41 Ave. 2276

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N.C.M.

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CAPITOL THEATRE

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COMING ATTRACTIONS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1951 Phone 137

XX

Jan. 31 Feb. 1 "BACKFIRE" Melodrama Family Entertainment
STARRING: Virginia Mayo, Gordon MacRae, Edmond O'Brien
Thrilling Story of a War Vet Who Saved His Pals from a
Murder Rap.

February 2-3 "THE SAVAGE HORDE" Family Entertainment
Western STARRING: William Elliot, Adrian Booth, Grant Withers
Smoking Guns....Blazing Fury....Spine Tingling Action...
As Johnny Ringo....the Great Western Gunfighter Casts His Lot With
Helpless Ranchers...Against the Onslaught of a Ruthless Land-Grabber.

February 5-6 "THE GREAT JEWEL ROBBER" Drama Family
STARRING: David Brian, Marjorie Reynolds, John Archer
Taken from Police Files....The Amazing Story of Gerald
Dennis....Master Criminal....Who Made Love to the Women He Robbed...
Whose Extraordinary Talents Put Him on the "Wanted" Lists from
Coast to Coast.

February 7-8 "SWANY RIVER" Reissue

February 9-10 "FATHER OF THE BRIDE" Comedy Family
STARRING: Spencer Tracy, Joan Bennett, Elizabeth Taylor
The Best-Seller is Sweller on the Screen....a Laugh-A-
Minute Comedy About the Third Man at a Wedding....The Father of the
Pride.

February 12-13 "THE KID FROM CLEVELAND" Western Family
STARRING: George Brent, Lynn Bari

February 14-15 "CARGO TO CAPETOWN" STARRING: John Ireland,
Broderick Crawford Family Entertainment

February 16-17 "THE NEVADAN" Western in Cinecolor Family
STARRING: Randolph Scott, Dorothy Malone
The Thrilling West Surges to Life....With the Fearless
and the Lawless Matched in Murderous Fury....It's a Blazing Epic
of Stolen Gold and Flaming Guns.

February 19-20 "THE HAPPY YEARS" Comedy Drama in Technicolor
Family STARRING: Dean Stockwell, Darryl Hickman
The Story of a One-Boy Rebellion Against Society....He Was
Well on his Way to Reform School....Until an Understanding Teacher
Showed Him the World Was On His Side.

February 21-22 "SWAMP WATERS" STARRING: Dana Andrews,
Anne Baxter, Walter Brennan

February 23-24 "OUR VERY OWN" Comedy Drama Family
STARRING: Ann Blyth, Farley Granger, Joan Evans
Another Dramatic Masterpiece from the Maker of Movie Hits..
Samuel Goldwyn....It's Warm and Tender...Compelling and Unforgett-
able....an Entertainment Triumph.

February 26-27 "THE NOOSE HANGS HIGH" Comedy FAMILY
STARRING: Lou Costello, Bud Abbot, Cathy Downs
Abbot and Costello Hit a New Hilarious High....Packing a
Bombshell of Laughs....In a Merry Mess of Mischief....That Could
Only Happen to Them....They're on the Lam from a Gangster.....
Who'd Like to Know What They Did With \$50,000 of His....and So
Would They.

MATINEE.....Every Saturday.....3 P.M.
XX



C.G.I.T. Camp at Sickman Lake, 1925. (L. to r.) — Eva Wilson, Ruth McLeery, Dorothy Nicholson, Jo Jennings, Evelyn McLeery.



Soils Research Sub-Station (Experimental Farm) — established in 1955.

captured the coveted award in 1949. Others who achieved similar success are J. Porozni of Willingdon, J. Skrypitski of Mundare, C. Schneider of Vegreville, and A. Ziegler of Vegreville.

The Dominion Government established the Agriculture Research Station (Experimental Farm) one mile east of town. Dr. R. Cairns has been in charge of it since its inception in 1955. The station carries on research in salt-affected (Solonetzic) soils, a service of great value to area farmers.

To start farming today requires a great outlay of capital — a great obstacle to a prospective young farmer.

Note the prices of farm products in 1923:

Wheat	67¢ a bushel
Oats	20¢ a bushel
Barley	27¢ a bushel
Rye	42¢ a bushel
Hogs	6¢ a pound
Cows	1½¢ a pound
Butter	30¢ a pound
Eggs	13¢ a dozen
Potatoes	25¢ a bushel
Hay	\$6 a ton

Ten years later, in 1933 during the depression, following are some prices:

Wheat	19¢ a bushel
Cows	2¢ a pound
Eggs	6¢ a dozen
Bread	5¢ a loaf
Good Meal	25¢

For Our Country

During the two World Wars many of our countrymen paid the supreme sacrifice. We cherish their memory and pay them tribute at all times, but especially so on Remembrance Day. In 1954 the cenotaph was erected south of the swimming pool. It stands as a reminder of grimmer days, a price paid for all of us.

World War II, 1939-45, was responsible for some type of control in relation to essential commodities, the sole object being to help the war effort. Butter, meat, sugar, liquor, and gasoline were rationed. Customers used coupons to get limited amounts of these purchases. (See page 234.)

General Interest

Seven miles east of Vegreville is Sick Man Hill, which is quite historic. The foot of the hill was a stopping place, a mecca for the Cree Indians on their travels from the North Saskatchewan River south to the Battle River. A rare type of mud here was used for tattooing and medicine. Today we have evidence of Indian life there; artifacts like arrow heads, tomahawks and petrified pemmican are occasionally unearthed by tillage implements.

The north-east area of town, by St. Martin's School and the hospital, is known as "French Town" because of the predominantly French population there.

In 1905 Vegreville vied for the position of capital centre of Alberta and petitioned and newly-formed provincial government to that effect, but the provincial government decided on Edmonton for its capital.

Sixty years ago Royal Park was called Raith, a name that appears on early maps. In 1921, "Royal



The dam on Vermilion River in Vegreville, looking north-east from C.N. track, St. Martin's school in background, 1910.

Park” was chosen as a descriptive name alluding to parkland.

Periodically the town area gets flooded when the Vermilion River goes on the rampage. In 1904 and 1909 the whole low area was flooded for miles around. In 1914 the flood waters reached Main Street. Such floods occur, thankfully not too often, but even in the last forty years there have been quite a few big



Flood, C.P.R. tracks — east to hospital, 1943.



Vegreville flood — Vermilion River on the rampage, 1951. Three gentlemen offered ambulance service for the hospital. (L. to r.) — Bernie Plouffe, Sam Smolyk, Raymond Tetreau.



Vermilion River overflowed the dam. In background St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church, St. Joseph's Hospital, and St. Martin's School. Lad in coat and cap is Nestor Porayko, 1920.



Flood. Hospital in background, 1943.



One of Vegreville's flood scenes, 1943. Rider is Henry Landry. Looking east on Hospital Ave. (54a Ave.); in background St. Martin's School, old church and hospital.



Spring flood, 1951. Motor boat used to reach hospital. Dr. A. Couillard in boat (front left), Raymond Tetreau at rudder, and Bernie Plouffe (behind — in cap).



Boat used for ambulance service during spring flood, 1951.

floods in our town. Spring of 1940, 1943, 1948, 1951, summer 1965 (excessive rain) and spring of 1974 have witnessed much flooding. Now that the river has been dredged and straightened in many places, the problem of flooding will not be as great.

In the beginning the Macleod's Store location was vacant. Later it was fenced and became a town park, featuring a lawn and a hedge. Since the town was expanding, and since the railway company was easing up on its property adjacent to the line, the park and other sections bordering the railway have eventually become sites of many business firms.

The golf clubhouse was not always a clubhouse. This small building, built in 1912 on the location of the present I.G.A. Store, was originally an immigration and publicity office rendering a worthwhile service, under the auspices of the Board of Trade. Later it became the headquarters for the Municipality of Norma. From 1924 to 1949 it accommodated the town library. During the 25-year interval it had to be remodelled and updated. When the new golf course was developed north of town thirty years ago, 1950, the little building was moved to serve as a golf clubhouse. Although it has seen many a day, it is still a pleasing and functional building.

The Elks' Hall has quite a history. The first Elks' Hall was a building, a former Boys' Home, located on the lot where Bill Czar's residence stands. The present Elks' Hall was built in 1926 by the members of U.L.F.T.A. (Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association), an organization that had quite a following in the 1920's and 1930's. In 1937 the town of Vegreville acquired the property because of non-payment of taxes. The Elks bought the hall in 1942 and have used it ever since. The club has added to the building and renovated it several times.

Dobbin's Block (Legion Building since World War II) was built in 1913. Horse power was used for excavation and Vegreville brick for its construction.

The hall upstairs was used for a variety of functions, from movies to political meetings. The balcony along three walls provided a grandstand view. This "perch" disappeared in the 1950's. The building is still used.

A year after Social Credit formed the Provincial Government in 1935, it introduced "Prosperity Certificates" or scrip — its own money to beat the depression. Every Monday the person who owned the scrip (a \$1 bill) was obliged to affix a one-cent stamp (which he had to buy) to the back of the bill as a tax. The idea was to make the money move and thus help the economy. Shortly no one wanted to take scrip as money because of the penalty. The storekeepers were stuck with a lot of it. A few of these scrips became mementos. In 1936 the courts of Canada declared scrip ultra vires and so ended a monetary experiment in Alberta.

In May of 1946, a light monoplane crashed on Main Street, cutting down the trees on the courthouse lawn and landing on the street close to the Observer Office. Experiencing engine failure, the pilot chose this course to land his craft. He survived the crash, but a young lady, walking one-half block away, was badly injured by a falling pole, triggered by the impact of the plane against the power lines.

A few remittance men have lived in town. They were young men sent abroad by their parents because of some problem at home. They were usually well supplied with money, well-dressed, and seemed to be suffering no pain. To keep themselves busy, they often performed small tasks, like handing out bits of paper with the weather forecast printed thereon.

Some prominent citizens of Vegreville have their names enshrined in one form or another, namely: Alida Hall, Huyke Avenue, Wener Block, Oligny Block, Dobbins Block, Holden Block, Town of Holden, Siding of Fitzallen, Peter Svarich School, A. L. Horton School, Ada I. Wright Chapter I.O.D.E., and Laura Evans Reid Art Club.

Vegreville has had its fair quota of judges. To mind come the following lawyers who have been appointed to the "Bench": N. Primrose who practiced law in early Vegreville; J. Decore who had a law practice here and was M.P.; J. Koshuta, a lawyer here and mayor of our town for twelve years; V. Moshansky, lawyer and also mayor of Vegreville for seven years; and M. G. Tomin, a local boy who practiced law in Edmonton.

Our history has not given the women the same prominence as the men. But "behind every successful man there is a woman." In pioneer times and even more recently women have been the unsung heroes, carrying on all family and household chores that just had to be done.



Ukrainian Labor-Farmer Temple Association Hall, 1926. Elks' Hall for the last 45 years, approx.

In the April 4, 1956, issue of the Vegreville Observer, Mr. A. L. Horton writes:

"Another omission is reference to the part played by our pioneer women. We must confess that our recollections in this respect are definitely hazy. But such ladies as Mrs. Wm. Clements, Sr., Mrs. M. A. Worth, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mrs. A. I. Walker, Mrs. A. H. Goodwin carried on a good work through their church affiliations and the W.C.T.U. There was a social life of a kind fifty years ago but it was not much of a feature. A fair share of the early ladies were brides and were too busy raising families to bother with social amenities."

However, mention has already been made of notable women in careers, professions and service work, namely: Mrs. Laura Evans Reid, Miss Ada I. Wright, Miss Mary Black, and Mrs. Helen F. Morton. There are many women who deserve recognition for work "on the home front" or in the community. Since women have become emancipated or, more recently, liberated, they are playing a more conspicuous role than in the past. Pioneer days are over and modern gadgetry and conveniences have replaced drudgery and cut down the length of the working day. In both World Wars, women were in active service and worked in essential plants. Consequently, in many instances, women are in the forefront with the men. Just a few weeks ago (October, 1979) Alberta got its first woman senator, a farmer's wife from Warspite. Mrs. Martha Bielish, a very hardworking former teacher and community worker, is a prime example of "today it is possible for a woman to climb to the top."

Stan Reid visited Vegreville in September, 1963, and gives the following account of the town.

"An ethnic empire if there ever was one, Vegreville was settled originally by people from Great Britain, Ontario, the northern United States and Quebec. After 1910 there was an influx of Ukrainian settlers, a band of people who helped a lot in making the district one of the best farming areas of the west. Through the years, there has been a shoulder-to-shoulder march of British, French, Ukrainian, German and assorted races which have melted nicely into a progressive and busy community.

"My mother recalls that the town's first water tower, a gaunt, steel structure, was being built the year I was born. The racket of the riveters remains in her memory and probably accounts for the baby's iron constitution.

"Be that as it may, a second water tower was built in the early 1930's, and Vegreville became a two-tank town and has never looked back.

"A visit back to Main Street this month was reassuring. Things were brighter, newer, busier —

but the original framework, in people and geography, was fairly basic.

"It was good to drop in and find Fred Muzyka and Oscar Tunis still doing business in the men's wear store where we once bought good shoes for \$4 and a "Sunday" shirt for \$1.50; to catch Meyer Adler in his dress store with more stock per square inch than any super-market; and to speak to Alex Mandryk, former Chamber of Commerce president, behind the grocery counter. Mr. Adler, who has been in Vegreville 36 years, has two sons who are dentists in Edmonton. They are Bernard and Eli. Another son, Edward, is in Montreal, and the one daughter, Dianne, is married to a lawyer in Calgary. All were born in Vegreville.

"Elsewhere on the Vegreville scene there were changes in the old-established hotel front. The former Calgary Brewing Alberta Hotel has been sold to a partnership of Alex Boyko, Peter Ruzyski and Louis Maiko.

"The Prince Edward Hotel, owned for many years by the late Louis Milner and operated by his son, Leo, has been taken over by Milton Goldstein of Edmonton. At the desk was Mrs. Wilson Bowen whose husband is another early native. The Milner family, incidentally, includes Mrs. Simma Holt, a Vancouver newspaper woman of some renown; Mrs. Hannah Smith of Calgary, a teacher and dabbler in handwriting fortunes; and Mortie, hotel-man now of the Trade Winds in Calgary.

"Another familiar citizen, (I didn't catch up to him) is A. W. "Buster" Shaw, former owner of Thomas Garage, now semi-retired. His wife's mother, Mrs. A. W. Fraser, a Vegreville pioneer, is now living in Peace River where son Carroll is in business.

"The Vegreville round was not complete without a visit to the Observer, established and edited from 1906 by the late A. L. Horton and now carried on by son Wilfred. Also of the same family is the redoubtable E. R. "Ted" Horton, mayor of Yellowknife and fighting editor of News of the North. Ted and I used to have a weekly inky battle with the flatbed press at the Observer.

"At the town office there was secretary-treasurer A. A. "Red" Cantrill who left the RCMP in Vegreville and stayed on with the town. Reporting a good year for building, Mr. Cantrill said permits to the end of August were more than half a million dollars, about the same as last year. Mayor of Vegreville is John Koshuta. A philosophic man in a sometimes pesky post is Edward Eickmeyer, building inspector, a man who has had a carpenter's hand in a good percentage of the town's buildings before he assumed the civic post.

"During the tour of operations I was not able to

get much from D. W. "Wally" Kennedy, Cliff King and Terry Cole, all well-informed citizens. They had been running the draw for the Labor Day golf tournament and were not immediately available for comment.

"Another "miss" was a word with Tommy Thompson who sees Scotland every two years since he retired from the lumber business. His son Leonard is operating a service station at the west edge of town.

"Before we close, there were three fires in our memory in Vegreville. In 1918, in the horse and buggy days, the livery stable burned down and one tight-lipped wife was heard to comment that at least 200 men were homeless; in the late 1920's the public school caught fire during the summer holidays and the fire was not a success as the firemen put it out; and in about 1937, members of the volunteer fire brigade fondly remember the fire that slowly destroyed the liquor store."

During the span of twenty-five years (1949-1974) the types of services and businesses doubled and, no doubt, became more sophisticated as the following table indicates:

Businesses and Services

Type	Number
Ambulance	1
Accountants — Chartered	2
Apartments	8
Artificial Insemination Station	1
Auction Market	1
Auto Body Repairs	2
Automotive Wholesale	2
Bakery	1
Banks	4
Barristers	6
Barbers	3
Beauty Parlors	5
Bottle Depot	1
Building Contractors	4
Building Supplies	2
Banquet Hall	1
Cartage Delivery	1
Car Wash	1
Cement-Transit Mix	2
Chiropractors	2
Clothing — Men's Wear	2
Clothing — Ladies' Wear	1
Car Dealers	5
Cold Storage Lockers	1
Creamery	1
Dentists	2
Department Stores	3
Doctors (2 clinics)	5
Drug Stores	2
Dry Cleaners	2
Electrical Appliances	4
Electrical Contractors	3
Florists	2
Funeral Parlors	2
Garage & Service Stations	13
Grain Elevators	5
Confectionery	2
Groceries and Confectionery	2

Hardware	2
Hatchery	1
Health Food Store	1
Hotels	2
Implement Dealers — Farm	6
Jeweller	1
Laundromats	2
Liquor Vendor	1
Livestock Buyers	2
Lumber Yards	2
Mail Order Houses	2
Magazines and Candy Shop	1
Milk Distribution	1
Meat Processor	1
Mobile Feed Service	1
Mobile Home Parks (40 stalls)	1
Motels (56 units)	4
Optometrist	1
Oil Distribution Agents	5
Painters and Decorators	2
Plumbing Shops	2
Pool Room	1
Printers	2
Propane Gas Distribution	1
Photographer	1
Radio Repairs	2
Radiator Repairs	2
Real Estate & Insurance	5
Refrigeration Repairs	1
Restaurants	6
Seed Cleaning Plant	1
Sewing Centre	1
Shoe Repairs	1
Sports Shop	1
Supermarkets	3
Theatre & Drive-in	2
Tinsmith Shops	2
Tire Shops	2
Taxi	2
Trucking Firms	2
Upholstery Shop	1
Variety Stores	3
Hobby Shop	1
Veterinarians	4
War Surplus & Second-hand Store	2
Welding Shop	1
Wholesale	1

Our town has many clubs and organizations — fraternal, charitable and service. The Elks, Masons, Lions, Kinsmen, Knights of Columbus, Rotary, Jay-



Three young winners in the Remembrance Day Essay Contest, 1963. Students (l. to r.) — Noreen Ziegler, Myroslawa Pidruchney, Leiney Sakaluk. Legion Zone Commander — Mr. Congdon, from Wainwright (l.), and Legion President — Sol Lucow (r.).

cees, and Legion are some of them. Several of these have feminine counterparts, like Ladies of the Royal Purple and Jaycettes. All these groups, by their volunteer effort, have assisted the community in countless ways.

Homestead Lodge — Senior Citizens' Home — was built in 1962 and extended ten years later. It accommodates about sixty senior citizens. It is situated in the western end of town and the distance may be somewhat of a drawback.

Parkview Manor — the Lions' Senior Citizens' Home — is situated next to Dr. R. Cairns School in the town park. It was built in 1978-79 and has a thirty-suite capacity. It offers self-help facilities.

Both Homes render a very worthwhile service for our elders.

There was a time when elections were heavily contested. Election fever characterized most elections, and no doubt, no stone was left unturned in the process of getting elected. Court cases sometimes settled election results, but only time erased bitterness and ill-feeling. A lot of electioneering today is done via radio, T.V., and newspaper, and the lack of personal contact and stage oratory tend to keep the event at low key.

Visits by Canadian Prime Ministers to Vegreville were infrequent but historical. Sir Wilfred Laurier spoke at the C.N. station in the summer of 1909. Louis St. Laurent, at an open-air gathering, spoke

more or less on the same spot on August 8, 1951. When John Diefenbaker visited Vegreville in May, 1962, he met the children by Queen Elizabeth School and later spoke at the Recreation Centre. All three Prime Ministers stated they were impressed with the growth and prosperity evident everywhere at the time, due, no doubt, to the cooperation and industry of all ethnic groups in the district.

At the beginning of this history I dealt with the English and French pioneers. but there was another large ethnic group that came a few years later, whose contributions should not be overlooked.

The Ukrainians formed a very large settlement block and their influence in our area was very significant. Inspector of Schools, O. Williams, in his 1927 annual report to the Minister of Education, stated that his inspectorate had 52 school districts wholly Ukrainian and Roumanian, 34 school districts partly Ukrainian and partly Anglo-Saxon, and 22 school districts wholly Anglo-Saxon or French. That means that over one-half of his inspection area at the time had a Ukrainian population.

The preponderance of Ukrainians was found north of Highway 16, and also south of this highway at Mundare. Mr. William's inspectorate was a big area then, before the building of the C.P.R. line through Willingdon and Two Hills. That was the picture fifty years ago.

However, the situation could be a bit different



Early Ukrainian settlers, 1906.



Ukrainian pioneer home, early 1900's.

today, with the thinning of the rural population, the growth of urban centres like Vegreville, and the great change in farm ownership.

Mr. A. L. Horton, in the Vegreville Observer of April 4, 1956, editorializes:

"It will be considered an omission that there is no specific reference to the coming of the Ukrainians before the turn of the century. But this story has been told hundreds of times and is of immediate interest only to those concerned. In any case all the pioneer Ukrainians are now Canadians. Their sons and daughters served in the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force. As we all know, Canadians of Ukrainian descent are found in our school boards, municipal councils, in the Legislative Assembly, and in Parliament. They are also engaged in the professions such as law, medicine, and education; in the arts and sciences, in every field of modern development. In short they are Canadians and that is plenty good enough for us."

Although biculturalism is the law of the land, multiculturalism is the way of the people here in Vegreville.

The Vegreville population, made up of many ethnic groups, is united in a spirit of co-operation, industry and goodwill.

More Recent Headlines

There were people who put Vegreville on the map years ago but more recently some big things have happened to advertise our town.

Edward Kassian of Vegreville played with the Penticton V's and went on a world hockey tour in 1955.

The Elks Organization has had people in top provincial and national positions. C. W. Brinton was Provincial Elks President in 1949-50. R. Robert was Provincial Elks President in 1962-63 and Grand Exalted Ruler (President of the Elks of Canada) in 1967-68. Dr. N. J. Kuzyk served as Provincial Elks President in 1967-68 and was Grand Exalted Ruler (President of the Elks of Canada) in 1975-76. R. Robert and N. J. Kuzyk made history because at no time before did a Canadian town have two Grand Exalted Rulers (National Presidents). R. Robert has been the youngest Grand Exalted Ruler to date.

Dr. S. H. Hardin, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta (Masonic), and Chairman (1968) of the Conference of Grand Masters of Canada, played a long and significant role in the Masonic Lodge. It was his distinct pleasure to occupy all top posts in the Masonic Order.

Dr. S. H. Hardin must be given much credit for printing the history of Vegreville in 1968. His text "History of Greater Vegreville" is a very useful historical reference. The proceeds from the sale of the book were donated to the Vegreville Public Library. For this the people of Vegreville are truly grateful.

Virgil Moshansky was Lions' International Director (1966-68) and Mayor of Vegreville for seven

years (1970-76). Since 1976 he is a Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, in Calgary.

Major Frank J. W. Fane was a distinguished war veteran (World War I, World War II, and Reserve Army) and Member of Parliament for approximately ten years. He passed away in January, 1980.

Don Mazankowski, Member of Parliament for the last twelve years, is presently the Federal Cabinet Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Environmental Research Centre, slated for completion in 1980, has given the town a big boost. The complex, located in the west part of the town limits, will cost over \$15 million. At full capacity it will employ several hundred people, carrying on all types of research in relation to the environment, agriculture, energy, natural resources and workers' health and safety. The Centre is financed by the provincial government.

The Lady of the Highway Shrine, erected in 1961, just east of town on Highway 16, is dedicated to our travelling public.

The Pysanka (Ukrainian Easter Egg), a landmark at the park and campsite south of the hospitals, was erected in 1974. It is the largest Easter Egg in the world. Designed and manufactured, rather expensively through computerized science, it commemorates the R.C.M.P. Centennial and recognizes a century of cultural progress. The Pysanka is the greatest tourist attraction in this part of the province. It is being immortalized in the thousands of photos taken of it every year. The monumental landmark will, no doubt, appear in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The Ukrainian Festival is a drawing card. It features all types of cultural activities and draws spectators and participants from near and far, even from other provinces. John Huzil deserves a lot of credit for proposing the annual event and for spearheading it during the first few years. The seventh Ukrainian Festival (showcase) will be held in July, 1980. (p. 55.)

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip, visited Vegreville on August 2, 1978. They were in Alberta for the start of the XI Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, but took time off to make an unprecedented visit to Vegreville on the third day of the diamond anniversary of the Vegreville Exhibition. The Royal Couple's visit was short, but busy, with stops at the Pysanka site in Elks park, and at the Agricultural Fair and Exhibition grounds. The Royal Couple were greeted at the Pysanka site (home of the world's largest and most colorful Easter egg) by Mayor Ruptash and his wife, and were subsequently presented with a gold-framed

replica of the famous Vegreville Pysanka. The Queen then unveiled a plaque commemorating her visit to Vegreville and signed the town's guest book.

At the Exhibition Grounds, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip were met by Exhibition Association president Alex Fedoruk and Mrs. Fedoruk. There the Royal Couple watched chariot and chuckwagon races, and presented championship ribbons to several winners in the horse and cattle classes.

An honor guard formed by senior citizens and war veterans bid the Royal Couple farewell at the railway station. It was a day that will not soon be forgotten by young and old alike in Vegreville.

In Conclusion

Bigger business establishments are providing jobs and a worthwhile service for people in town and elsewhere. Some of these are Ezee-On, a farm machinery manufacturing plant; Environmental Laboratory and Research Centre, costing over 15 million dollars and opening in 1980; A.G.T.; Alberta Power; and Northwestern Utilities (natural gas).

Vegreville offers many amenities of modern life, such as: clean modern residential areas, serviced residential and commercial lots, superior schools, excellent policing and fire protection, adequate water supply, garbage collection, low cost natural gas and electrical utilities, up-to-date telephone service, complete sports and recreation facilities, many churches, excellent medical facilities, paved streets and highway, Greyhound bus service, proximity to Edmonton, and very good employment opportunities. (See aerial map inside back cover.)

Starting with a few hundred people in 1906,



Vegreville Telephone Exchange, about 1914.

Vegreville now has a population close to 5000. And the town is growing.

Residential and business construction is at its peak. The farms in the area are becoming bigger and highly mechanized. Most years produce good crops

and high yields. Growth and prosperity are everywhere apparent.

If the foregoing facts and observations are a barometer, Vegreville appears to be heading towards a bright and promising future.



Raydon Car Sales, late 1960's. To enhance the "sales pitch", a hardy gentleman lived up in the "crow's nest" for 48 hours.



One store in Vegreville, 1918.



Construction of Highway 16, 2 miles east of Vegreville, 1940.



Alida Women's Institute, 1938.



1926 Vegreville Band, with Harry Ragan as Band Master; got uniforms in 1927. After a few years Harry Ragan moved away from Vegreville and Elias Porayko took over as Band Master until he moved to Hilliard, Alberta, where he organized Hilliard band. The two bands combined and played for Vegreville Exhibition, Bruce Stampede and also Bruderheim Sports activities. Front row: Tommy Knowles, Elias Porayko, ?, Roman Svarich, Harry Ragan Band Master, ?, Fred Reesor, ?, Jack Browett, Bob Woods, ?. Top row: standing high is Charles Brinton with Chis Clements next, and Morton at end of row.



Concert put on by children about 1923. Front row (l. to r.) — Helen Reid, unknown, Mae Cunningham, unknown, Sadie Milner, Jeannie McRea, Ruby Richardson, Georgina Johnston, Marjorie Ferguson, Kieryluk. Middle row (l. to r.) — Gwen Thompson, Helen Ewasiuk, unknown, Lena Patasky, Charlotte Knowles, Annie Kieryluk, Margaret Smith, Evelyn Brondgeest, Lillian Meredith, Isla McIntyre. Top row (l. to r.) — Daisy Dean, Helen Triska, Helen Fisher, Lillian Shaw, Lena Rusniak, Violet Cunningham, unknown, Lavera Brondgeest, unknown, Eileen Monkman.



July 1915. A Vegreville picnic group that accompanied acting members who put on a play in Mundare, Alberta. Front row: Mary Melnyk, Nataalka Semeniuk, ?, ?, Annie Melnyk, John Koos, Stella Melnyk, Rose Semeniuk, Johnnie Melnyk (behind Rose), Nancy Melnyk, John Ruryk, Nicholas Melnyk. Top row: Mrs. Pearl Melnyk, Mrs. Mary Semeniuk, ?, Mrs. Polomark, John Semeniuk, Mrs. Parania Svarich, Wm. Semeniuk, Mrs. Mary Svarich, ?, Peter Dalavrak, John Showkoples, Eli Kiriak, ?, Harry Kostash. (Others unknown.)



Vegreville Infants Patriotic Society Party, 1914.



"Oi ne chody Hrychu" — a play in Vegreville January, 1919. Front row (l. to r.) — O. Zukivsky, J. Sokolov, P. Dalavrak, N. Porayko. Second row: Stella Melnyk, Elias Porayko, Lena Ruryk, Steve Porayko, Nancy Ruryk, John Ruryk, Violet Skory. Third row: Wm. Hryciuk, unknown, Dorothy Ruryk, Mrs. N. Kieryliuk, Peter Tymchuk, Parania Svarich, Cathie Lemiski, Mrs. Dalawrak, Petryga.



Vegreville Fire Department, 1952. First row — Earl Tillapaugh, Deputy Chief P. Ruzycki, Assist. Chief C. Green, Chief A. H. Mercier. Second row — B. Tillapaugh, Wm. Semenovich, Wm. Dowhaniuk, J. Tillapaugh, Mayor E. F. Morton, N. Kassian, G. Esak, J. Spak, R. Irvine, Mascot G. Dowhaniuk. Third row — G. Hantiuk, P. Rosko, R. Brunelle, E. Lemiski, C. Dumont, G. Henderson, M. Wynnychuk, D. Henderson. Fourth row — E. Draeger, G. Shapka, W. Hughston, B. Plouffe, J. Landry, E. Kennie.



Vegreville Community Concert Party June 1947, under the direction of Margaret Laing. Some of the faces recognized (back row l. to r.) — Doc Hosking, Rev. J. Burke, Edmond Dubuc, Joe Dubuc, John Yanchyshyn, a policeman, Adair Laing, Rev. George Strickland, Fred Laing. Second row — some of the faces recalled are: Phyllis Yanchyshyn, Sally Malarski, Jeanne Napier (Erickson), Molly Giebelhaus (Cole), Marge Shaw. Front row standing — Nestor Svarich (with fiddle), Doreen Campbell (McGaherty), Mrs. Desmond, Muriel Forcade, Mrs. Dunn, a Giebelhaus girl. Sitting — Mrs. Laing between four young girls. Sincere apologies to those not named due to lack of recollection.



1959 members of the Ukrainian Pioneers of Alberta Organization meet annually on Father's Day in Elk Island Park on the grounds of the typical Ukrainian Home built in 1951. Earlier a miniature model of the house was constructed by Mr. Peter Svarich of Vegreville (this miniature model is presently in the Museum of Saskatoon, Sask.) and later with efforts from Vegreville M.P. Mr. John Decore, the above model was constructed and opened on August 5th, 1951, by the Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent. Among those present on the above photo are Wm. and Nicholas Pylypow — two sons of Ivan Pylypow, the first Ukrainian immigrant to arrive in Alberta in 1891. Also present are M.L.A.s Wm. Tomyn, A. Holowach, Nicholas Melnyk and A. Gordey, and their wives. Committee includes: Ivan Baran, President; T. Tomashevsky, D. Prokop, J. Hocolak, Peter Svarich, Andrew Svarich, Wm. Czumer, Wm. Pidruchney, M. Zaliziak, N. Solovan, S. Porayko, H. Faryna, Malanchuk.



Official Opening of Crossway Cafe owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hedley, early 1960's. Major Frank Fane, M.P. congratulating Mrs. Hedley. John Koshuta — Mayor (left of Mr. Fane), Buster Shaw (in doorway), Glen Carpenter (right of Mrs. Hedley), and Jack Hedley (extreme right).



A group preparing for a play in National Hall with Elias Porayko as manager. Back row: John Ruryk, Wm. Semeniuk, Frank Lemiski and Eli Kiriak. Centre row: John Kuss, Rose Semeniuk, Nancy Melnyk, Stephen Philip. Bottom: A. Hrehorowich and Elias Porayko, 1916.



School of Ukrainian Dancing in Vegreville under tutorship of Ivan Pihuliak, June, 1928. Front row (l. to r.) — Vera Porayko, Elizabeth Salamandick, Mike Fedoruk, Wynnychuk, Hawryliak. Second row (l. to r.) — Natalka Svarich, Fedoruk, Jennie Fodchuk, T. Kuss, Jennie Salamandick, Poohkay, Marian Fodchuk, Poohkay, Vera Svarich, ?, Nestor Charuk, Helen Kieryliuk, Tom Kuss, Charuk, Bob Svarich. Third row: Olga Cherniawsky, Anne Salamandick, Lena Wynnychuk, Nellie Salamandick, Anne Cherniawsky, Sophie Salamandick, Helen Svarich, Clara Deputan, Elsie Maleski, Anastasia Zaseybida, John Gregory, Olga Svarich, Bob Gregory. Fourth row: Wm. Zaruby, Peter Shavchook, Anna Robchan, Tillie Shavchook, Stella Porayko, Madeline Melnyk, Alice Svarich, Ivan Pihuliak (teacher), Nadia Svarich, Phyllis Nykyforuk, Kate Kolmatycki, Anne Poohkay, George Makoweychuk, Russell Goshko. Top row: Metro Radomsky (violinist), Wm. Pauk, Nick Kuss, Elias Porayko, Bill Wynnychuk, Wm. Pidruchney, Wm. Gregory, Saffron Schur, Dmetro Salamandick, Alex Wynnychuk, Dick Kozniuk.



"Welcome (BITAEMO)" — Patricia Yakimyshyn (left) and Gloria Charuk are giving a traditional Ukrainian welcome to the Ukrainian Pysanka Festival in Vegreville, July 7, 1978.

Ukrainian Pysanka Festivals in Vegreville

The Ukrainian Festival of "The Canadian Showcase of Ukrainian Culture" originated in 1974 under the capable leadership of John Huzil, a town councillor and initiator of the unique cultural event.

The festival, a three-day Ukrainian celebration, draws visitors, tourists and participants from all parts of Canada, and even from the U.S.A. The ethnic festivity has a varied colorful program consisting of music, song, dances, exhibits, grandstand performance, variety shows, youth talent competitions, fashion shows and traditional ethnic food.

The cultural event entails many hours of work by dedicated, community-minded citizens. To welcome the guests to Vegreville — the town with the largest Ukrainian Easter egg in the world, the Pysanka Festival Presidents, through the years, were John Huzil, Alex W. Gordey, Mrs. Kathleen McKenzie, Michael Barlott and Alex T. Mandruk. Alex W. Gordey is the current dedicated Secretary-Manager.

The Pysanka Committee is forever striving to give the spectators and participants a high-calibre community festival.

Mayors and Councils

1906-1979

Town of Vegreville

compiled by Mr. Garnet Burnstad Town Manager
Vegreville, Alberta

1906 — Mayor Wm. Clements

1907 — Mayor Wm. Clements

1908 — Mayor Wm. Clements

1909 — Mayor James McNeil

1910 — Mayor Dr. A. H. Goodwin

1911 — Mayor Dr. A. H. Goodwin

1912 — Mayor Dr. A. H. Goodwin, Councillors Davis, Robertson, Gillies, Clute, Stanton, Trump

1913 — Mayor Dr. A. H. Goodwin, Councillors Davis, Robertson, Gillies, Clute, Stanton, Trump, Secretary Herman

1914 — Mayor Dr. A. H. Goodwin, Councillors Stanton, Dobbins, Gillies, Gordon, Fraser, Trump, Secretary Maxwell

1915 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Gordon, Svarich, Dobbins, Hacker, Fraser, Reid, Secretary Pozer

1916 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Fraser, Svarich, Dobbins, Hacker, Reid, Secretary Herman

1917 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Fraser, Gordon, Svarich, Hacker, Trump, Secretary Herman

1918 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Fraser, Gordon, Svarich, Hacker, Reid, Secretary Edugton

1919 — Mayor Gordon, Councillors Watts, Meredith, Fraser, Holdman, Cunningham, Svarich, Secretary Wilson

1920 — Mayor Gordon, Councillors Greckol, Meredith, Fraser, Holdman, Hepburn, Douglas, Secretary Wilson

1921 — Mayor Gordon, Councillors Greckol, Casson, Fraser, Holdman, Hacker, Douglas Secretary Wilson

1922 — Mayor Gordon, Councillors Laurenceson, Casson, Fraser, Shaw, Hacker, Douglas, Secretary Wilson

1923 — Mayor Fraser, Councillors Laurenceson, Casson, Reesor, Long, Kulmatycki, Douglas, Secretary Fitzallen

1924 — Mayor Fraser, Councillors Blue, Casson, Long, Reesor, Kulmatycki, Douglas, Secretary Fitzallen

1925 — Mayor Fraser, Councillors Blue, Kulmatycki, Long, Laurenceson, Thomas, Secretary Fitzallen

1926 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Casson, Laurenceson, Kulmatycki, Dutka, Thomas, Price, Secretary Fitzallen

1927 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Laurenceson, Kulmatycki, Dutka, Thomas, Price, Secretary Fitzallen

1928 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Shaw, Kulmatycki, Dutka, Rose, Secretary Fitzallen

1929 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Shaw, Laurenceson, Thomas, Rose, Kieryluk, Secretary Fitzallen

1930 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Shaw, Knies, Third, Kieryluk, MacLean, Thomas, Secretary Fitzallen

1931 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Shaw, Knies, Third, Kieryluk, MacLean, Bender, Secretary Fitzallen

1932 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Third, Bender, Kieryluk, MacLean, Knies, Secretary Fitzallen

1933 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Shaw, Kieryluk, Knies, Bender, Third, Secretary Fitzallen

1934 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Kieryluk, Third, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1935 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Kieryluk, Third, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1936 — Mayor Holden, Councillor MacLean, Bender, Kieryluk, Third, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1937 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Svarich, Third, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1938 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Svarich, Third, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1939 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Svarich, Dimos, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1940 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Svarich, Dimos, Shaw, Primrose, Secretary Fitzallen

1941 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Svarich, Dimos, Shaw, Hurlbert, Secretary Fitzallen

1942 — Mayor Holden, Councillors MacLean, Bender, Muzyka, Dimos, Shaw, Hurlbert, Secretary Fitzallen

1943 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Black, Bender, Laing, Muzyka, McLure, Hurlbert, Secretary Fitzallen

1944 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Black, Bender,

Laing, Muzyka, McLure, Pawliuk, Secretary Fitzallen

1945 — Mayor Holden, Councillors Black, Bender, Laing, Muzyka, McLure, Pawliuk, Secretary Fitzallen

1946 — Mayor McLure, Councillors Zenko, Bender, Laing, Muzyka, Wade, Pawliuk, Secretary Fitzallen

1947 — Mayor McLure, Councillors Zenko, Bender, Laing, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Fitzallen

1948 — Mayor McLure, Councillors Zenko, Bender, Laing, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Fitzallen

1949 — Mayor McLure, Councillors Zenko, Torpe, Laing, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Fitzallen

1950 — Mayor McLure, Councillors Zenko, Torpe, Kuzyk, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Cantrill

1951 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Zenko, Koshuta, Kuzyk, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Cantrill

1952 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Fedechko, Koshuta, Kuzyk, Muzyka, Shaw, Dubuc, Secretary Cantrill

1953 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Fedechko, Koshuta, Maiko, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Cantrill

1954 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Fedechko, Koshuta, Maiko, Muzyka, Wade, Dubuc, Secretary Cantrill

1955 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Fedechko, Koshuta, Maiko, Muzyka, Kuzyk, Dubuc, Secretary Cantrill

1956 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Fedechko, Koshuta, Gordey, Muzyka, Wade, Craddock, Secretary Cantrill

1957 — Mayor Morton, Councillors Fedechko, Wade, Gordey, Craddock, Koshuta, Muzyka, Secretary Cantrill

1958 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Muzyka, Wade, Craddock, Gordey, Fedechko, Cherot, Secretary Cantrill

1959 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Muzyka, Wade, Craddock, Gordey, Hantiuk, Cherot, Secretary Cantrill

1960 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Muzyka, Edmunds, Craddock, Gordey, Hantiuk, Cherot, Secretary Cantrill

1961 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Muzyka, Edmunds, Symyrozum, Horton, Hantiuk, Craddock, Secretary Cantrill

1962 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Yaciuk, Edmunds, Symyrozum, Horton, Hantiuk, Craddock, Secretary Cantrill

1963 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Yaciuk, Ed-

munds, Symyrozum, Hantiuk, Horton, Craddock, Secretary Cantrill

1964 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Edmunds, Yaciuk, Symyrozum, Hantiuk, Horton, Craddock, Secretary Cantrill

1965 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Craddock, Horton, Kozoway, Huzil, Symyrozum, Edmunds, Secretary Cantrill

1966 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Craddock, Horton, Kozoway, Huzil, Symyrozum, Bird, Secretary Cantrill

1967 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Symyrozum, Bird, Huzil, Horton, Kereliuk, Kozoway, Secretary Cantrill

1968 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Kereliuk, Bird, Symyrozum, Huzil, Craddock, Soldan, Secretary Cantrill

1969 — Mayor Koshuta, Councillors Huzil, Bird, Kereliuk, Soldan, Craddock, Symyrozum, Secretary Wemyss

1970 — Mayor Moshansky, Councillors Huzil, Bird, McKenzie, Soldan, Ruptash, Symyrozum, Secretary Wemyss

1971 — Mayor Moshansky, Councillors Huzil, Sokoluk, McKenzie, Soldan, Ruptash, Symyrozum, Secretary Wemyss

1972 — Mayor Moshansky, Councillors Huzil, Sokoluk, McKenzie, Soldan, Ruptash, Symyrozum, Secretary Wemyss

1973 — Mayor Moshansky, Councillors Huzil, Sokoluk, McKenzie, Soldan, Ruptash, Symyrozum, Secretary Burnstad

1974 — Mayor Moshansky, Councillors Triska, Sokoluk, McKenzie, Oginsky, Ruptash, Semeniuk, Secretary Burnstad

1975 — Mayor Moshansky, Councillors Triska, Sokoluk, McKenzie, Oginsky, Ruptash, Semeniuk, Secretary Burnstad

1976 — Mayor Moshansky, Ruptash, Councillors Triska, Beaudette, McKenzie, Oginsky, Sokoluk, Semeniuk, Secretary Burnstad

1977 — Mayor Ruptash, Councillors Triska, Beaudette, McKenzie, Kuzyk, Henley, Semeniuk, Secretary Burnstad

1978 — Mayor Ruptash, Councillors Triska, Beaudette, McKenzie, Kuzyk, Henley, Semeniuk, Secretary Burnstad

1979 — Mayor Ruptash, Councillors Triska, Beaudette, McKenzie, Kuzyk, Henley, Semeniuk, Secretary Burnstad

**Vegreville and District Historical Society
by Dorothy Sanford — Secretary-Treasurer
1971-76, President 1977-1979 and Louise Miller —
Secretary 1977-1980**

A brief notice, a simple invitation was the begin-



Simma Holt, M. P. — Vancouver — Kingsway, being congratulated for her address to the sixth Annual Historical Society Banquet Meeting, February, 1978. Mrs. Holt was raised in Vegreville. (l. to r.) — Floyd Tuck, Louise Miller, Simma Holt,

ning of a series of meetings which indicated there was interest in this area to form an organization to collect and preserve our historical heritage.

A meeting was held in the Chatelaine Restaurant on November 26, 1971, with Elmer Schultz as Chairman. The guest speaker was Mr. I. Paterson, Liaison Officer from the Provincial Museum and Archives, who stressed that in Western Canada our history is very young. Mr. Paterson stated that Fur Traders were in the Fort Saskatchewan area in the year 1800. There was a display of pictures of early Vegreville and District from the Ernest Brown Collection. Pictures and information are as valuable as antiques and artifacts.

It was at this meeting that the Vegreville and District Historical Society was organized. The following were elected to be Directors:

Retiring 1972:

Hugh Gilchrist

Joe Dubuc

Victor Palahniuk

Sam Smolyk

Heather Hubbard

Retiring 1973:

John Austin

Leo Steinbach

George Kuwata

Dorothy Sanford

Sonia Berg

Retiring 1974:

Philip Lemiski

Lena Zuk

Roy Fuller

Steve Chorney

Elmer Schultz.

Mrs. Kay McKenzie acted as secretary for this meeting and donated the first minute book. The first executive:

President — Elmer Schultz

Vice President — John Austin

Secretary-Treasurer — Dorothy Sanford.

The following Statement of Purpose was submitted and approved:

The purpose of the Society is to collect, preserve, study and exhibit those items that will serve to illustrate the story of the early settlers and nature in this community, also, to encourage the development of a museum. Realizing that the understanding of our heritage is basic to our way of life and gives us a better understanding of our province and country.

The Society will collect artifacts and specimens that depict the community's past in terms of settlement, ethnic groups, community's cultural achievement, agriculture and education, which brought change and progress to this community. The Society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its availability for all those who wish to see and study it.

This institution will be a non-profit educational establishment operated for the community's betterment and open to the public regardless of race, creed or occupation. The Society will disseminate knowledge and stimulate interest through information services, by holding meetings and by arranging programs for the furtherance of the purpose of the museum.



Hon. Grant MacEwan, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, visiting the Vegreville Historical Society, Kay McKenzie (l) and Elmer Shultz, President (r). 1972.

This museum will co-operate with the Provincial Museum and other museums in the region to collect and preserve and aid in the collection and preservation of materials of significance, so that these materials may be preserved and shall be an aid in the advancement of knowledge of this Town and County and our Province.

The following committees were appointed:

Finance:

Sam Smolyk
Philip Lemiski
Publicity:
Joe Dubuc

Membership:

Roy Fuller

Building and Storage:

Elmer Schultz
Leo Steinbach

Restoring Artifacts:

George Kuwata

Cataloging: Heather Hubbard

Collecting:

Victor Palahniuk

Roy Fuller

Philip Lemiski

Records and Histories:

Steve Chorney

John Austin

Tapes:

Hugh Gilchrist

Displays:

Heather Hubbard.

In February 1972, we were offered space in the Kinsmen Development north of the Elks Park, which is being developed into a recreational area.

In March, 1972, we held a competition for School Children to draw a suitable letterhead for our organization. This was won by Debra Yaremchuk. Honorable mention to Allan Wandyka.

June, 1972 a display of Australian artifacts was arranged by H. Hubbard for Crazy Daze. Members organized a display of artifacts in a booth at the Fair and members took shifts to man the booth. The float that was entered in the parade was awarded a prize of \$15.00.

The first Annual Meeting was held in the Chatelaine Restaurant on November 29, 1972, and was preceded by a banquet at which our guest speaker was Grant MacEwan. The speaker stressed the fact that Alberta has had many heroes to be proud of.

February, 1973, Mr. Shavchuk began assembling a collection of valuable pictures which are reproduced from originals provided by people of the district. This is an ongoing project which will be a priceless heritage.

In August, 1973, we entered a float and also had a booth at the Fair. The Booth featured a display of an old-time bedroom.

The second Annual Meeting was held in the Chatelaine Restaurant on January 30, 1974, with Dr. J. G. MacGregor as guest speaker. He spoke on early history of this area.

June, 1974, a delegation of three young people: Dwayne Charchuk, Jack Oliver, and Diana Ede, requested our support in their project, which was to research and sketch historical churches in this area. We donated to their project and were rewarded with a copy of their completed book.

In 1974 we were pleased that our float was awarded First Prize at the Annual Exhibition and everyone enjoyed our "Country Store" booth also. During this year it was planned that we present honorary memberships to persons in the community who

have been residents for many years and attained their 75th birthday or 60th wedding anniversary.

The third Annual Banquet Meeting was held in the Legion Hall on February 1, 1975, with guest speaker Ted Horton. His topic was "A Tour of Main Street Vegreville".

In July, 1975 we were allowed the use of the Old Timers Cabin and members met and assisted with the repairs and cleaning to have it ready for the Fair. There were members on duty to serve coffee and cookies during the Fair and also encourage the elderly to rest and relax in the cabin and sign our guest book.

Our members were proud to support the Canadian Legion Vegreville Branch #39 in their proposal to build a commemorative wall with name plaques. This was also the year when many old-timers gathered at the picnic area at the Research Station at the invitation of Joe Dubuc.

For the fourth Annual Banquet Meeting in the Legion Hall on 30 January, 1976, our guest speaker was Ralph Steinhauer, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta. He spoke on pioneers and Indians in this area.

We were in charge of the Old Timers Cabin at the Fair and two of our members, John Austin and Chester Lowe, represented us at the reopening ceremonies at Government House.

The fifth Annual Banquet Meeting was held at the Chatelaine Restaurant, on January 31, 1977. The guest speaker was Dr. John Lunn, who as Museum Curator brought us valuable information on organizing and displaying antiques.

The sixth Annual Banquet Meeting was held at the Chatelaine Restaurant, on February 18, 1978. The guest speaker was Simma Holt, MP Vancouver — Kingsway, who was raised in Vegreville and delighted the audience with her vivid memories of the town as she was growing up. Mrs. Milner accompanied Simma and enjoyed renewing acquaintances with old friends.

In April there was a discussion regarding writing or compiling stories of Old-Timers and Residents of the district, and it was decided to contact New Horizons to see about obtaining a grant. We have received information from Friesen Press, a company that prints histories. We appreciated a presentation by a representative of the company who brought us valuable information that will be of benefit to our book committee. In June we were saddened to hear of the untimely death of our past president, Elmer Schultz. He will be greatly missed by the Society.

In August we had a preview of the pictures commissioned by Alberta Power commemorating their fiftieth anniversary. They have very generously of-

fered to give the Historical Society the proceeds from the sale of these pictures.

The Seventh Annual Banquet Meeting was held in the Chatelaine Restaurant on February 14, 1979, when our guest speaker was Tony Cashman, Historian for Alberta Government Telephones. He spoke of the growth of AGT in Vegreville. We enjoyed the pictures and data that he brought about Vegreville.

In this year we lost a valued member when P. M. Shavchook passed away suddenly. We will miss his help and guidance.

Senator Martha Bielish was our guest speaker for our eighth Annual Banquet Meeting which was held in the Chatelaine Restaurant on February 9, 1980. This was our first noon banquet and it was well attended. Our guest speaker stressed the importance of recording our history and heritage while memory and research are available. Each district has a unique character and this should be preserved for future generations.

An Historical Sketch of Vegreville (1901-1902)

by Rev. R. E. Finlay

This sketch of Old Vegreville is given by the first Minister of any church to settle there and serve the people.

It was about noon on July 10, 1901, that the writer got his first glimpse of Vegreville and its environs. It was a slightly rolling prairie land with bluffs scattered on the higher land and the wild roses were profusely about everywhere. It reminded one of Byron's poem:

"These be the gardens of the desert,
These the unshorn fields:"
Boundless and beautiful
For which the speech of England
Has no name."*

*The word "prairie" being appropriated from the French language.

Old Vegreville was situated about fifteen miles east of Beaver Lake and about four miles S.W. of the present Vegreville. It was located at four corners and was drained by a little creek that crossed the road about 150 yards south of the corners. It would have made an ideal location for a town, but the coming of railways usually change centres. The day I got my first sight of Vegreville, I had come over from Angus McCallum's home at Beaver Lake and took dinner at the Dennis Stopping Place, as it was then called. It was situated N.W. of Vegreville, near the centre of a very fine section of land and there was a large farmhouse built of logs. This stopping place was the headquarters for the land seekers and the newcomers. In those days all comers were expected to

bring their own blankets and provide their own sleeping accommodation. In case of rain, they were allowed to come into the house and make a bed on the floor; otherwise, they were expected to make a bed outside in a horse stall or a granary or alongside a hay or strawstack, or under the vehicle in which they travelled. The party travelling paid for their meals only. It was a common thing for the Dennis Stopping Place to have twelve or fifteen men, who had stopped overnight, on the premises for breakfast. Mrs. Dennis, on short notice, could provide for all, with porridge, eggs, griddle cakes and strong coffee, the main items of the bill of fare. And perhaps she had not known that there would be half that many for breakfast.

The father of Willis Cole had come up to this vicinity about a year and a half prior to my coming and had taken up thirteen quarter-sections for himself, sons and sons-in-law. These were to be their homesteads. The C.P.R.'s policy of those days was to select almost every other section of land and they had selected much in the area around Vegreville. In the summer of 1901 they were offering it for \$3.00 an acre. I remember hearing that a Mr. Huyke from North Dakota had selected 18 quarter-sections as a speculation and an Edmonton firm, McDougall and Secord, had agents out selecting C.P.R. land and taking homestead land through Indian Scrip which they had purchased through Indian agencies.

After taking dinner at Dennis', that first day, I made arrangements with them to hold religious services in their home every alternate Sunday at 11 o'clock. Then I set out to explore the area around Vegreville; that did not take very long as settlers were few and far between. At Vegreville itself there was only a log livery barn and one store (Mr. Lambert was the proprietor). It was built of logs also and had a sod roof. The roof was not rain-proof, and the rain that summer tested the qualities of his print goods as to whether they were fast-dyed. His sugar and tea had to be moved about quite often in order to escape the raindrops. About one-half mile south of the corners, the post office was located in a farmhouse, built of logs and plastered with mud. Mr. Eugene Poulin was the postmaster. Mail came from Edmonton, or was supposed to, every two weeks. One time that summer, owing to bad trails, we missed the mail delivery and had to wait for the next two weeks, then they said there were so many letters, the papers were left, so we were six weeks without a paper. We, of course, had no telegraph agency, nor telephones and it was over twenty years before the advent of the radio, so we lived in splendid isolation from the rest of the world. Our nearest railway depot was at Strathcona, now South Edmonton, then over ninety miles by trail.

There was no short cut through Beaver Hills. The trail from Vegreville led westward to near Beaver Lake, then took a north-westerly course, passing Beaver Lake P.O., then continuing north-westerly over the Beaver Creek. That creek was from six to eight rods wide and deep enough to come up on the side of a wagon box and upon the sides of the saddle horses. Leaving Beaver Creek the trail pursued its way over a great lone plain, now settled by Ukrainians, to what was then called Swans Stopping Place. It is just a little north-west of the present town of Lamont. From Swans the trail took its tortuous course through willow brush and around sloughs. There was at this time no highway laid out and every driver and settler was largely a law unto himself; he chose what ever way he thought was best. To combine with the mud and the brush, there was a great cloud of mosquitoes to torment man and beast. After crossing Deep Creek, where there was a bridge (the first met with from Vegreville), the trail gradually improved as it neared Fort Saskatchewan. There, if the ferry was running, you had the choice of the shorter route to Edmonton; if not there was the trail via Clover Bar; much of this way was difficult and longer than the north route to the city of Edmonton. Men teaming, not trucking as today, took a full week to make the trip from Vegreville to Edmonton and return. Neighbors used to group up in teaming, two or three or more would go together. It was safer and one could help the other in a breakdown. To have broken harness or equipment along the trail was a common experience.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cole very kindly consented to provide me with board and lodging, a free stall with hay for my horse. They were a young couple from Minn., just married in Sept., 1899, and had a new frame house, 18' x 24', the only frame-house for miles and miles around. They gave me the upstairs. There was no stairway in as yet so we nailed slats across the 2 x 4's, which served nicely as a ladder. They provided me with a bed and a chair up there, but there was no table or writing desk, and no lumber to make one. What was to be done? I noticed that Mr. Cole had a nice top buggy, the relic of his courting days in Minn. The prairie was too rough on the top, so Mr. Cole had put it upstairs. I opened it up and sat in; it was a little high but served the purpose. I had a buggy top series of sermons while at Vegreville.

There was very little sickness in those days. When sickness did come, it was a misfortune indeed. Only once in my year was there a medical man called from Edmonton; he demanded \$110 for the trip and after he arrived there was no need of his coming except to sign the death certificate. About the middle of July, 1902, a smallpox epidemic broke out. The

first case was Myrtle Cole, a little girl of seven summers. She was the daughter of Merton Cole. In pastoral visiting I had called and Mrs. Cole met me at the door saying, "Mr. Finlay, you had better not come in as Myrtle has something I am afraid of." I asked her to let the child come to the window and when I saw the blotches that had broken out, while not a medical man, I concluded it was smallpox. Word was sent out to Star and on to Fort Saskatchewan, and in a couple of days a Mounted Police and a Dr. Rush came in to look after quarantine regulations. This was the beginning of fifty cases of smallpox, but only one death resulted.

There was a great scarcity of money in those early days in frontier settlements. The people who moved in were the only people to have money and when it was spent in providing buildings and some farm equipment to get started, money came in very slowly; butter was from 12-15 cents a lb. and eggs were from 8-12 cents a dozen. Many times they wanted the salesman or saleslady to take it out in trade. I did not take up offerings at my religious services. To pass the plate when people had nothing to offer was very embarrassing; however, later people gave a free willoffering.

When November came and ice was formed on the neck of sloughs that I had to cross, I carried a hatchet on my saddle and when the ice would not carry the horse, but would hold me, I cut a channel across the ice wide enough for the horse to cross without cutting his legs.

It is difficult for young people to realize conditions in those early days. In leaving to visit a family or to take a religious service, I assumed that "a straight line was the shortest distance to a given point". There were very few fences in those days, a calf pasture or a field to turn the cows in after milking at night, or a garden might be fenced, but generally the whole country was before you. And the straight line had usually many deviations to get around bluffs and to cross sloughs if the water was not too deep. There was an almost unbelievable amount of water everywhere. Beaver Lake was as large of the Sea of Galilee then, about seventeen miles long and eight or ten miles wide. Every two weeks I went over to Tofield to hold religious services in their log school, and the Amisk Creek that flowed into the S.E. corner of the lake was about forty feet wide and ten feet deep in the centre. This necessitated the swimming of my saddle pony across this creek. We crossed over near a ranchman's home on a raft while the saddle pony fed around with a tether rope attached to her bit. I would cross over on the raft with the saddle, blanket and whatever I was carrying, and then tightening up the tether rope, would coax the horse over. I had to do

this all summer and autumn, but bridge builders came in the winter and put a bridge over this creek.

The minister of those days found ample opportunities for service in many ways. Aside from preaching, visiting sick, giving religious instruction to young people and children, he was called upon to give advice in temporal affairs, to draw up wills, to extract teeth, to give help to worried home-builders in cutting the right pitch to their rafters. He milked cows when he found both father and mother sick in the home on which he had just called. He helped a mother to get a load of hay from a hay slough, when the father was on a long trip for provisions and the supply of fodder had run short. He happened along one day in harvest when a farmer was very much out of temper because the knotter of his binder failed to tie and was throwing out sheaves untied. The minister, being a farmer's son and having worked with a similar binder, adjusted the knotter. A neighbor in relating the incident to me said, "That farmer had always a wholesome respect for the minister after that."

As people really make the community and especially the first settlers give poise and direction to the ideals, it is fitting that I note here the families that had considerable to do with the development of the area around Old Vegreville. There was Willis Cole and family, Henry Trenhaile and family, Merton Cole and family, Grandfather Cole and his community-interested wife, after whom the Hall was named, the Leach family, the Tierneys, Dennis family, the Wilsons, Poulins and Tetreaus. No doubt there were others that the years have effaced from my memory.

Vegreville's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary by Lillian E. Hohn (1979)

In 1906 Vegreville came alive,
It was incorporated and began to thrive.
Backbreaking work but a very fine crew
Laid steel tracks, the railroad came through.

The first man to care for the railroad yard
Was a good agent, his name Alf Chard.
When old Vegreville was moved to the new
Men worked hard and built our town in a slough.

The very first mayor in our new town
Was Wm. Clements, a man of renown.
Important events needed reportin';
The newspaper editor was A. L. Horton.

If you wished your single life to cease
H. R. Pozer was the Justice of Peace.
Dr. T. M. Rush helped the first baby appear
In the R. M. Boswell, she was a dear.

When fighting and arguing did not cease
 Someone called the Town Police.
 When married life became one of remorse
 Lawyer Fred Morrison helped get your divorce.
 To visit your dentist you had to be bold;
 Dr. A. H. Goodwin filled your teeth with gold.
 And when old Rover needed a vet
 Dr. M. G. Connelly cured your pet.
 Sam Grose owned the town's livery barn;
 It kept farmers' nags cozy and warm.
 If for money or wealth you did hanker
 You borrowed from Perkins, the local banker.
 There were business men, some owned a store;
 Miller, Clements, Sigler and a few more.
 The town grew fast, I can name just a few
 McKenzie and Fraser, Cole and Abbott too.
 Vegreville was built with much toil and tears;
 We have come a long way, down through the years.
 Our present mayor has a lot of dash
 That noted man Larry Ruptash.
 Professor Resch hatched a plot in Veg.
 The Pysanka emerged, the world's largest Easter egg.
 When your eye smarts and makes you cry
 Dr. Starko or Haluschak will examine your eye.
 When hit on the head and you hear music
 See Drs. Toderovich, Lukenchuk or Kuzyk.
 Should your condition be rather drastic
 To be cured, see Dr. Hnydyk or Stefancik.
 When your teeth ache and need filling
 Drs. Chrapko, Thompson or Krolczyk do the drilling.
 If you misbehave and have too much to drink
 Fourteen R.C.M.P. may throw you in the clink.
 If a lawyer you are needing
 Kawulich and Starko will do your pleading.
 And if you are forced to go to court
 Frazer and Blonsky will give you support.
 We have 275 businesses in our community,
 Ten churches, seven schools and a lot of opportunity.
 Our citizens are pleasant, we have no cranks
 To hoard our money, we have five banks.
 Forty-three hundred is our population,
 Our town is exciting, a real sensation.
 This year we are all happy as can be
 To celebrate our seventy-fifth anniversary.

Events of 1905

by J. G. MacGregor

Progress was in the air and everyone was hurrying to make sure that he profited by it. By the time the first locomotive puffed its way along the newly laid rails beside which the carpenters were erecting each

little station, a whole street full of buildings had been run up to keep it company. Before the railway reached the town of Vegreville, for instance, a Bulletin correspondent listed the number of businesses as the following:

4 Real estate offices	1 Second-hand store
1 Justice of the Peace	1 Candy shop
5 Machine agents	1 Student at law
2 Notaries public	2 Doctors
4 General stores	1 Skating rink
3 Clergymen	2 Blacksmith shops
2 Restaurants	1 School
1 Bakery	1 Church

Then on October 14, 1905, a cheerful correspondent living in the original hamlet of Vegreville, sent the Edmonton Bulletin an informative letter from which the following extracts have been taken.

"The long looked for railway is now a realization and the C.N.R. trains puffing and whistling across the Vermilion Valley every day give an up-to-date touch to the vicinity and guarantee to its future . . . At present two or three construction trains are running as far west as the end of the steel and travellers are carried in the caboose from Vegreville, Lavoy, Mannville and other stations to Vermilion city . . . From Vermilion city east passenger trains are running on schedule time . . . The townsite surveyors are now west of Vegreville, following up the steel. The new townsite northeast of Vegreville was surveyed into lots the first week of this month. It is expected that it will bear the name 'Leverne'. As yet it has not been placed on the market but the C.N.R. sales agents are following up the surveyors and are expected to be on hand next week to offer Leverne property to anxious buyers.

"The telegraph gang are at Mannville; Poles and wires are strung to that point and holes dug across the Vermilion Valley so that the wires will not delay operations by being behind. Some ballast has been put on the road and good crossings put in on all public roads. The railroad has reached the Vermilion (River) and passed on west. The hope of the settlement is realized and the matter of getting station buildings erected and trains running on schedule time and doing business generally is only a detail in comparison to the actual coming of the iron band . . .

"At Vegreville all is bustle and stir for most of the town is preparing to move bodily to the new railway site of Leverne. Houses and stores were jacked up, goods packed and all arrangements made to move the three or four miles across the prairie to the station site as soon as the survey was complete. The stakes were hardly driven till George Robertson's residence was rolling across the prairie to its new location. On Wednesday, October 11, it was set on a choice lot near

the station site, commanding a splendid view of the valley, and the new town had its first houses up where less than a week before all was untouched prairie with the grade running along the north of it. Less than a year ago there was no sign even of the grade. But the white house will not long stand alone. Hardly had one become accustomed to the new view which met his eyes when McColman & Sons' new barn, which they are building on the spot began to loom up. Then the well diggers are there with their derrick and teams and cellar diggers are at work. Next came the Bank of Commerce sending a bank bodily across from Vegreville. It is the building lately occupied by M. F. Laurence and will be the first business house to open in Lerne.

"They will vacate their present premises in Vegreville, in the small log shack by the corner store, and occupy the Laurence building till a new and suitable bank building can be erected. The Vermilion Trading Co., and Clement & Son are to move next week. The history of Lerne is in the making and can only be written as it is made. Every morning the settler coming out to his day's work looks away across to the new town to see what building has arrived on the scene since dark the night before. A year from now and who shall say what nature of town Lerne will be. Before Christmas it hopes to be a big stirring town. The Bank of Commerce and the Merchants Bank are both doing business now at Vegreville and will soon be in the new town. Robertson Bros. the Pioneer Implement firm are to the front for to Mr. Geo. Robertson belongs the honor of being the first citizen to sleep in his own residence in the new town."

Somewhere along the line the name Lerne seems to have dropped out of sight — possibly because the people from the old town moved the Vegreville post office over to this new townsite. In the meantime, the contractors kept pushing the grade and the rails farther west until the Bulletin reported that Edmonton's own transcontinental railway, MacKenzie and Mann's CNR, had become a reality. At 10:30 on the morning of November 24 the track layer completed the line to the Edmonton station, and Mayor MacKenzie declared the afternoon a public holiday. That day, "In the presence of thousands of citizens of Edmonton and visitors from all parts of Central Alberta, Hon. G. H. V. Bulyea . . . drove home with unerring blow the silver spike which held in place the first rail of the Canadian Northern Railway to reach the station in Edmonton.

In the Queen's Hotel that evening at a banquet attended by two hundred guests, the city tendered its thanks to Donald Mann and to some of the visiting

MacKenzies. Nothing was said, of course, about the \$100,000 grant which the previous January the city council had promised the CNR's rival, the Grand Trunk Pacific, if it too would build its line into Edmonton and make the city one of its main divisional points.

Frenchtown, Early Days

"Frenchtown" got this affectionate nickname from the predominance of French-speaking people who settled around their church, school, convent, and hospital in the north-east part of Vegreville. Such families as Poulins, Dubucs, Tetreus, Nadeaus, Pelletiers, Dumonts, Bourgets, Forcades, Plouffes, Lafleurs, Lachappelles et al lived there in widely spaced lots with plenty of room for gardens, animals, and children. Of course there were inhabitants of non-French origin, too, including Richards, Stantons, Roses, Maloneys, Nikiforuks, Stupareks, Stachows, Dutkas, and Hantiuks.

After Mass, in fine weather, everyone grabbed a bite to eat, then rushed to the largest vacant lot where ball games were enjoyed by all, the rooting section having as much fun as the players. The Vermilion River, winding its slow way through Frenchtown, was used for watering gardens, for skating in winter, and for swimming and berry-picking in summer. Once it was the site of tragedy when a young woman, Mrs. Roy Barkley, fell while skating and died thereafter of concussion. Later, young Peter Romaniuk drowned while swimming in the Vermilion River. The "great escape" occurred when a speedy motorist, J. H. Blackburn of Lavoy, missed the turn at the bridge on Highway 16 just east of town, and landed in his Model A in about eight feet of water and muck in the river. Frenchtown kids watched entranced as Blackburn managed to crawl out of his car and stand on its roof, calling for help. Since he could not swim, Blackburn had to wait there on the sinking car until Lloyd Korstad of Thomas Garage arrived with the tow-truck.

Since many residents kept a cow or two in town, cattle-herding in summer was necessary. Jim Solway rode horseback to tend to this job. The Hantiuk boys had to herd on foot. For 25¢ per cow per week, they drove neighbor's cattle, plus their own, to the grassy prairie along the river, and as far south as "Ramona Valley" (near St. Mary's School, today). Armed with slingshots and gravel from the newly-gravelled roads, they also attacked all gophers along the way.

At fifteen years, Johnny Hantiuk was the "mailman" for Father Rowland and for the Convent Sisters, and one winter morning, going to the post office to collect their mail, he found crowds gathering around the Liquor Store (then behind present Sted-

mans) where a fire had broken out. So young Johnny, along with other lads, some not so young, began raiding into the fire and smoke to salvage some of the merchandise . . . most of the loot, including beer in wooden cases, was immediately sold by the boys to older, less daring fellows. But Johnny and his chum, Pete Montpetit, cached some for themselves under the CPR freight shed, only to find later that someone got to their secret cache. In addition, Johnny was sharply reprimanded by Father Rowland for being late with the mail, and by the Sisters for missing school that morning.

Midnight Mass in old St. Martin's Church was a high-light of the French-town winter. Catholics and their Protestant friends crowded into the drafty old building for an uplifting service which featured Latin Mass sung by a talented mixture of Sisters, Dubucs and others. Candles were used profusely in the church then, and once a sleepy altar boy nearly incinerated the Creche when his lighted taper tipped too close to the cottonbatting "snow". One Midnight Mass was enlivened by a full whisky bottle dropping from "heaven", that is, the choir-loft, onto the heads of two grateful recipients in the pews below. It seems the original owner of the "crock" had removed his coat and draped it over the edge-railing of the loft, forgetting that his Christmas cheer was in one pocket. Somebody's prayers were answered that night!

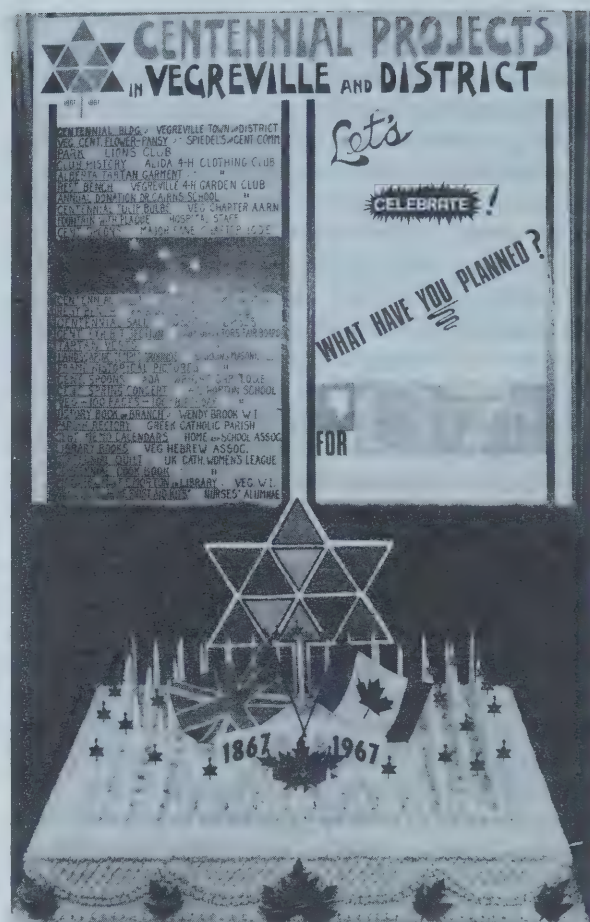
Vegreville's Centennial Celebration — 1967 by Lena Zuk

Centennial year was very busy and thoroughly successful for Vegreville and District.

The Vegreville Observer quoted this about the Project Cake and Board:

"There is an attractive display announcing the Centennial Projects that are planned, underway or completed. Listed on the sign, and marked by the centennial symbol, are all of the projects that have been reported to the Vegreville Centennial Committee. In conjunction with the display is a birthday cake holding one hundred candles. Each time a project is undertaken, one of the candles is marked and it is hoped that by the time celebrations take place in Vegreville all the candles will be lit." We went over the top with 120 projects.

Five thousand Vegreville Centennial Medallions were distributed to merchants of the town. They were struck at the Sherritt-Gordon rolling mill at Fort Saskatchewan and were made of pure nickel. They were 1.26" in diameter and .070" thick. The design on one side of the medallion was a duplicate of the Town of Vegreville crest, while on the other side was a centennial design with accompanying dates com-



Canada's Birthday Cake — 1967. The cake held 100 candles. Each time a project was undertaken one of the candles was marked by a red "flame". We went over the top, with 120 projects.

memorating Canada's Centennial Year. The medallions had a value of \$1.00 in Vegreville stores during the year and were acceptable as tender at stores cooperating with this Chamber of Commerce project.

A display of Centennial handicrafts was featured throughout the year, in the North-Western Utilities display window. Here the main feature was Canada's Birthday Cake and project board. The dolls represented people of ethnic origin in Vegreville and district. The Laura Evans Reid Art Club of Vegreville contributed paintings of an R.C.M.P., Ukrainian Pioneer House, Pansies (Vegreville's Centennial Flower), and Alberta Rose. Twelve quilts were made, all on a Centennial Theme. These were displayed as space permitted.

A centennial column titled "Centennial Say" appeared weekly in two local papers. This served to inform readers of various centennial activities and projects. This was written by Lena Zuk (Mrs. K.).

The Alberta Tartan was sold in local stores. It was advertised by having a doll dressed in same and put in the display window. People made garments using this colorful woolen material.

There was a Centennial Section at the Vegreville Exhibition. Special prizes were given for garments made of the Alberta and centennial tartan, a quilt in a centennial motif, a cake featuring a centennial design.

The A.A.R.N. (nurses) sold Centennial tulips; the proceeds (over \$180) was donated to the Cystic Fibrosis fund.

The Royal Purple ladies provided fortunes as their 25 cent-centennial project to raise money for the Dr. R.R. Cairns School for Retarded Children, the opening of the Centennial Building, and the Centennial Booth at the Vegreville Exhibition.

The Rotary Club financed the Student Exchange program. Quebec students travelled to Vegreville, and local students visited the East.

The Jaycees (a) gave prizes for Centennial Ice Statues.(b) tape-recorded interviews with pioneers.

Students of the A.L. Horton School compiled a historic book called "100 Facts on Our 100th Birthday", organized a Centennial Band and sponsored the Jablonski piano concert.

The St. Martin's Students' Union and Staff produced a "Centennial Edition" yearbook.

The Scout-Parent Association sent two boys to Expo and provided an Archives room in the Beaver Bennett Scout Hut.

The Vegreville Legion organized a parade to kick off Centennial Week, and served a Pancake Breakfast to 500 people the next morning.

The Lions' Club had started work in their Centennial Park.

The Vegreville Home and School Association presented Albums to schools. These contained pictures of Canadian prime ministers and provincial legislative buildings.

The Vegreville 4-H Clubs furnished a room in the Centennial Building.

Books and cash to the Vegreville Public Library

were provided by the Vegreville Hebrew Association, Vegreville Legion, and our two I.O.D.E's (Major Fane, Ada I. Wright).

The Vegreville Home Economics Class made clothing featuring the Maple Leaf and Alberta Tartans; compiled and sold centennial cookbooks.

The Staff of the Solonetzic Soil Sub-Station of the Canada Department of Agriculture, at Vegreville, pooled their ideas and the result was an attractive fountain and waterfall. The fountain is in the form of two interlocking centennial symbols, so the symbol is clearly visible from any direction. The water flows from all the points of the triangles, and a recirculation system pumps the water through the cairn. It flows down the front to form a pretty waterfall. The structure is made of native stone, and at night, with colored floodlighting, is an attraction to motorists travelling on the nearby highway 16.

Vegreville had a Centennial baby girl, born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bohaychuk.

Major Centennial events, in summary: Kinsmen Club — Ice Review, March 19; St. Joseph's Nurses' Centennial Ball, May 26; Legion's Veterans' Week, June 11-16; Opening Centennial Building, June 9; Ada I. Wright I.O.D.E. Centennial Ball, September 23.

Centennial Week; Joint Religious Service, October 1; Legion Parade, October 2; Legion Breakfast, October 3; Centennial Concert, October 3; Centennial Caravan, October 4 and 5; Citizenship Night, October 6; Major Fane and Ada I. Wright I.O.D.E. Fashion Show, October 7.

As its centennial project, the Town of Vegreville bought the former armouries from the federal government and called it the Centennial Building. A lighted centennial symbol in various colors graces the end and the top of the front roof, while the "Centennial Building" lettering is attached to the outside wall on the left-hand side of the front en-



1967 — Vegreville Centennial Dollar.



Centennial year, 1967, dolls — representing ethnic people in Vegreville. Lena Zuk's project.

trance. The basement rooms are used for Red Cross, Handicrafts, Rifle Range, and 4-H Clubs. The large auditorium has been used for various community meetings and activities.

The Centennial Committee was comprised of the following members: President — Dr. L. M. Edmunds; Vice President — Grant Fowle; Secretary — Ferne Hickman (Mrs. C.); Displays and Publicity — Lena Zuk (Mrs. K.); Town Council Representative — W. Horton; Directors — Hans Mayer, John Huzil

This report and a few centennial articles were sent by me to the Museum and Archives in Edmonton. Those wishing to see the aforementioned should quote the following number 69.192 which is called the accession number. The Town of Vegreville also has a copy of this report.

Vegreville

by M. L. English

The home of the Egg —
Railway came nineteen-five,
Folks flocked to see the first train,
Town moved, and came alive.
Vegreville now a growing concern
Newspaper starts in its turn;
Keeps track of living and dead
Every line of paper read.

Hospital new, staffed by nuns,
Convent, St. Martin's, the first;
Music lessons learned by some,
Daily school for everyone.

Bank, butcher ship, blacksmith, too
All the town has work to do;
Flour mill gives grist to all
Who make Veg. their port of call.

First war calls a lot of men
Thins the ranks of Veg.'s best, then;
This the war to end all wars;
Now need help to do the chores.

Thirties we remember well
Hard it was to buy and sell;
Then we hoped for future days
Which would better our hard ways.

In the Forties a new war —
Seems worse than the one before;
Veg. goes all out to her task
Scarce can say "We will do more".

Fifties see new enterprise,
Into Sixties Veg. does rise.
Seventies now already done
Seems as if we've just begun.

Prosperous now we richly dwell
Our life here is really swell.
Happy, happy golden years
Take them as they swiftly pass.
Old friends, old faces greet you.
Hold them, live in memory.
Bless ourselves, our children dear.
Bless this book, our goal so near.

Vegreville and District — In Bits and Pieces (Information obtained from Vegreville Observer and from Interviews)

by Margaret L. (Mrs. Thomas S.) English

James Stanley Reid operated a grocery store in early Vegreville.

Joseph Dadensky came to Canada in 1902, with his wife and two sons; lived one mile south of Two Hills; son Dmetro lives in Two Hills; grandson Paul Dadensky lives on the old farm, with wife and four children.

Richard (Dick) Fife came here in 1895, ranched at Two Hills and took off hay crop for fifty years.

Ransom Sill, owner of Vegreville restaurant, was killed during World War I.

Dr. H. S. Monkman died overseas during World War I.

Drs. Rush and Field were early doctors in Vegreville.

Thomas Rose was a livestock dealer in early Vegreville.

Mr. Simon's steam engine fell into Vermilion Lakes, about 1910.

M. A. Worth was in real estate with J. B. Holden, early 1900's.

Rev. Armstrong was farewelled from the Vegreville Methodist Church in 1912.

Rev. Robert Finlay, the first Methodist minister, was followed by others such as: Rev. A. B. Argue, Rev. W. H. Allen, Rev. L. R. MacDonald, Rev. W. H. Hughes, Rev. A. H. Schragg, Rev. S. H. Irving, Dr. Armstrong again, Rev. H. Cantelon, Rev. E. Mullen, Rev. M. Sutherland, Rev. G. Mather, Rev. Thomas and Rev. C. B. Hickman (all covered period to 1961). The later ministers were of the United Church.

C. Ahlstrom shot a big bear at Ben's Lake, 1913.

Major F. W. W. Fane served with the Alberta Dragoons, 1913.

Mary Whitford, called medicine woman, helped all Indians in the early 1900's.

George Le Roy Smith had a ranch by Two Hills in 1912; moved to the States and became very rich.

The Vegreville-St. Paul Trail passed by the Dadensky's and English's.

First Council of Knights of Columbus was organized in Edmonton in 1906.

Alida Hall was named after Alida Cole.

Robert McQuillan taught at Wolia School for many years. Alfred Harkness was a blacksmith in Vegreville for many years; his wife was teacher at Banff — early 1900's.

Pat Bouthillier and Edmund Brosseau had struck it rich at the Klondike in 1898; Pat bought land at Hairy Hill and Edmund at Brosseau (North Saskatchewan River valley).

Robert and Alphonsina Bienvenue came to Vegreville in 1903; raised a family of 11 sons and 3 daughters.

Cymbaluks and Hryciws, originally from Ukraine, settled on land between Vegreville and Two Hills.

John Hawirko served a short time with the R.N.W.M.P., then farmed north of Lavoy.

Around 1910, pioneers Trump, Dr. Rush, Dr. Field, and Flynn were in the limelight.

Chase's Hill, by Paul Dadensky's place by Two Hills, was named after Charlie Chase.

Geleta came here to the N.W. Territories in 1902.

Mr. Scott moved back to the bush in northern Alberta, only to be surrounded shortly by other settlers with the same intentions.

H. R. M. Pozer, a veteran of the Riel Rebellion of 1885, was Secretary-Treasurer and Justice of the Peace and businessman in Vegreville; lived in town close to 30 years. Originally Two Hills was called Pozerville in tribute to Mr. Pozer who lived there around 1900.

Carl Handy's house close to Vegreville was built on a road allowance; people had to travel around it.

Alberta Hotel was built by James McAllister.

Robert (Bob) Simpson came to the area from England in 1910; most of his progeny are in the district.

Dr. Goodwin was a rancher, businessman and dentist in Vegreville for about 30 years.

Edmond Smith, an altar boy to Father Lacombe at St. Albert in the 1880's, farmed in Wattsford for many years; was a surveyor in the early 1900's.

Rev. C. G. Stone preached his farewell sermon at the United Church in Vegreville in August, 1919.

Mike Soldan's farm had many stones — 200 loads from 10 acres. Mr. Soldan had Lainuk post office. The Soldans (Mike's father and brothers) hauled grain to Vegreville before the C.P.R. in 1928. Were clever craftsmen.

Fish was plentiful at Plain Lake, 1919. By 1956 the lake was very small. In 1975 it came up again to its highest level.

Sgt. Edna Dunn served during World War II with

R.C.A.F. postal service; was postmistress at Warwick.

Sandy Ferguson helped Dr. Shofe during Spanish flu in 1918; Fred Shofe, brother of Dr. Shofe, had a store in the Vermilion valley by Two Hills; friend of the children who liked his Victrola music.

Reesor Flour Mill operated in the 1920's.

Vegreville Public Library was experiencing some financial problems in the 1920's and 30's.

Mike Dutka was manager of Alberta Hotel, 1920's

Gravelled highway from Vegreville to Ranfurly was in the discussion stage, 1924.

Public School enrolment in 1924 was 328.

Tom Watt who farmed west of Two Hills built up a fine herd of cattle and acquired much land; had served in the Riel Rebellion; died 1925. Battleford trail ran past Watt's place. Wattsford post office was named after him.

Bob Taylor had Wattsford post office before Two Hills came into being.

Jack Forbes bought Two Hills Ranch from Ed. Chamberlain, and built a two-storey house.

Howard McCleery of Vegreville district passed away 1940; farmed here for 33 years.

Mr. Lillie was killed by runaway horses; wouldn't trust a car.

The Vegreville Bank of Commerce operated from 1904 to 1938.

Dr. George Arthur, once Superintendent of R.M. Boswell Hospital and Boys' and Girls' Homes, passed away at Lavoy in 1943.

Gorgichuks of Kaleland were frequent visitors in Vegreville before the C.P.R. in 1928.

Mrs. Teresa McKenzie of Warwick lost two sons during World War II.

Merle F. Thomas operated the Thomas Garage, 1923-1943.

In 1934 Vegreville and surrounding area had 31 grain elevators.

Steve Urchak was teacher and Peter Urchak, his brother, worked as a linotype operator for the Vegreville Observer for 25 years.

Mrs. Arsilia Dumont, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Poulin, lived here all her life.

Sam R. English, well-known farmer and rancher, passed away at age 69.

Michael Hunka, who once owned the Hairy Hill Flour Mill and worked for the C.P.R. till 1958, passed away in 1963.

Sam R. Warwick visited Vegreville in 1956; he had lived here 1898 — 1902.

Mrs. Clements taught music for approximately fifty years.

In 1956 Sam Kirkwood, a Vegreville pioneer, passed away.

The United Church in Lavoy was sold to the Baptists in 1956.

Vegreville got its mercury vapor lamps in 1956.

Klem Duk passed away in 1975; had eight sons and five daughters.

Sgt. "Rod" Dunn, war veteran, passed away 1969.

Jacob Gafka farmed in the Brush Hill district for 50 years.

Silas Richards was caretaker of the Vegreville Public School for 35 years; he had moved in from Warwick in 1912.

Robert Warren was a butcher for forty years.

Eugene Poulin, earliest Vegreville pioneer and postmaster, passed away in 1953.

Alfred Booher dug wells in Vegreville and district close to thirty years; knows many people.

Nicholas Greckol family lived in the district for 65 years; he was a politician and businessman, besides being a farmer.

John H. Tuck of Lavoy was mayor, power-plant operator and garage operator; lived in Lavoy for 55 years.

A. L. Horton was a teacher, newspaper reporter, and then editor and publisher of the Vegreville Observer for 52 years.

John F. Tillapaugh was a household word in Vegreville; was town maintenance man for over thirty years.

Other Events

by M. Tomy

While Vegreville was in its infancy, other events in Alberta and Canada were the focus of attention of many of our forbears.

1900

- Canadian troops saw action in the Boer War in South Africa.
- Sir Wilfred Laurier, a Liberal, was Prime Minister of Canada.

1901

- Marconi received the first Trans-Atlantic wireless message at St. John's, Newfoundland.
- Queen Victoria died and Edward VII became King.

1902

- The safety razor was invented.

1903

- Barr colonists arrived at Lloydminster.
- The Frank slide buried a part of the mining town of Frank and killed 66 people.
- The cream separator modernized the farm and kept the milk maid happy.

1904

- Charles Saunders produced disease-resistant, quick-ripening Marquis Wheat.
- Earl Grey was Governor-General of Canada.

1905

- The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were welcomed into Confederation.
- The name "Alberta" is derived from the name of Queen Victoria's daughter, Louise Caroline Alberta. The princess's husband, the Marquess of Lorne, was Governor-General of Canada and had persuaded the Canadian government to adopt the name for a part of the Northwest Territories in 1882. The name was officially chosen for the province of Alberta in 1905.
- The first Premier of Alberta was A. C. Rutherford, a Liberal.
- The Canadian Northern Railway reached Edmonton.
- The first hydro-electric plant was established at Niagara Falls, Ontario.

1906

- First motion-picture theatre was opened in Montreal.
- The first dirigible ("The Flying Sausage") made its flight in Montreal.
- Tommy Burns, a Canadian, won the world heavyweight boxing title. (No Canadian has since held the title).
- The Lord's Day Act forbade most business activities on Sunday.

1907

- Vacuum cleaners appeared on the Canadian scene.
- The Quebec railway bridge collapsed, killing 75 workers.

1908

- The Royal Canadian Mint was completed at Ottawa.
- Peter Verigin established a Doukhobor colony in B.C.
- The University of Alberta was founded at Edmonton.
- Ernest Thompson Seton organized the Boy Scouts of Canada.
- The first gas station in Canada was opened in Vancouver.
- The United Farmers of Alberta appeared as a farmer organization.
- Governor-General Earl Grey donated the Grey Cup for the Canadian rugby-football champions.
- J. A. D. McCurdy made the first flight in Nova Scotia.

1910

- An avalanche in Roger's Pass killed 58 of the crew of a railway work train.

- The T. Eaton's catalogue occupied second place to the Family Bible.
- The incubator was beginning to gyp the hen of her motherly instinct.

Jewish Community Of Vegreville by N. Olyan

The story of the Jewish community of Vegreville begins with the first settler, Philip Seigler, who arrived in 1906 — he was the proprietor of a livery barn and his business consisted also of the delivery of mail from Vegreville to St. Paul, a very hard trip in those days, which took three days each way in good weather.

In the year 1911 two more Jewish settlers arrived, J. Newhouse and J. Shaw, who were partners in a small general store on Main Street. A few years later three more Shaw brothers arrived and M. Shaw founded the Bon-Ton Department Store.

The Harry Olyan family arrived in 1915 and were engaged in a small fruit store business on Main Street. This was the beginning of a sixty-year stay, except for seven years spent in Chipman.

In 1919 the first tiny Synagogue was built on 47th Ave. and 49th St. At this time the small but thriving community consisted of the Shaw families, the Olyan families (Harry and Saul) from Edmonton, and the A. Klimoff family, who came from Winnipeg. Harry Olyan and Abe Klimoff bought the Vegreville Bakery and operated it for several years until the Olyan family left for Chipman and Abe Klimoff went into the retail grocery business on Main Street.

During this time Harry Bloomfield opened the Central Wholesale and operated it for a number of years until the Olyan family returned to Vegreville from Chipman and bought the business which still

exists today, more than fifty years later. The Lewis Bricker family, around this time, arrived in Lavoy from New York and became part of the Vegreville Jewish community. Morris Milner then arrived in Vegreville and had a business on Main Street next to the National Hotel.

In 1921 Saul Laub and family opened a tailor shop in Vegreville next to the Vegreville Bakery. The Segal family arrived in 1924 and another brother of Harry Olyan, Pat, arrived with his family from the U.S.A.

In the year 1927, the L. Milner family came from Lamont and took over the National Hotel, changed the name to the Prince Edward Hotel, which it still bears to this day.

More Jewish families came and left during these years, among them, L. Berg, Rabbi Golubchuk, J. Shtabsky, J. Loomer and Dr. Billig, a veterinarian.

In 1927 also, the M. Adlers arrived from New York and the Abe Weners from Vermilion, together with the Binders and Poderskys.

By 1929 Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Hardin arrived from Alliance. About this time the Oscar Tunis family moved to Lavoy from Lamont and became part of the Vegreville Jewish community.

In 1931 the J. Klein family arrived from Saskatchewan. Because our community had become more numerous, it was decided to build a new Synagogue on Main Street and 49th Avenue, a building which was a Vegreville landmark for 42 years.

By 1932 the Ernie Panar family arrived and two years later the J. Simburg family settled here. In 1934 the Sam Milner family came to Vegreville, as well as the Moorman family and the D. Goldstein family. One year later, in 1935, the George Black family arrived from Holden and set up Black Motors.

In the year 1938 the Goldsand family arrived



Vegreville Synagogue (where Bank of Commerce now stands), 1973.



Holiday gathering at the Olyan residence on 50th Ave., 1956.

from Europe and farmed for a time near old Vegreville.

In 1948 the S. Lucow family arrived from Winnipeg, and in 1951 the Vinsky family moved to Vegreville.

Since the earliest years the Vegreville Jewish community has always enjoyed close association with Jewish families in surrounding towns, such as the Macklins in Ranfurly, the Spevakows in Innisfree and the Comisarows of Viking.

In 1955 the Taback family moved to Vegreville from Winnipeg and stayed until the year 1976.

During the many years covered by this brief report, the Vegreville Jewish Community was blessed with very many bright and progressive men and women who worked hard to advance their town and their careers. This community produced many capable professionals, business men and women and people who have made their mark locally, nationally and internationally — the Vegreville connection did not hurt a bit and indeed, helped gain recognition for the town in many far-away places.

The Rose Bricker Chapter of Hadassah, which is a philanthropic International Organization of Jewish Women, was formed in 1936 and has been a very active and successful group, which has, for more than forty years, gained wide international recognition for their enterprise and for their devotion to their people in Canada and abroad.

It is interesting to note that during the great number of years covered by this report, the Presidency of the Vegreville Jewish Community was held by the late Harry Olyan, who served devotedly until 1974, as long as he lived. He was ably assisted by Executive Members — Dr. S. H. Hardin and Oscar Tunis.

It is sad to relate that at this writing in 1979, there are only three Jewish families left out of this once thriving and once numerous community, but because of the various strivings of members of the Vegreville Jewish Community since 1906, the few who are left take pride in their record and try even today to live up to the proud example of their parents and predecessors who worked diligently in good times and in bad to advance their town and their community in the wonderful freedom of Canada.

Rolland M. Boswell Hospital

The Rolland M. Boswell Hospital was started in 1906 by the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. They had mission hospitals in Teulon, Man. and Wakaw, Sask. but realized the need for one in Alberta. Through the generosity of Mrs. R. M. Boswell of Elora, Ontario, who donated \$4,000, the project was started. Before completion it cost in the neighborhood of \$65,000.



Scenes of R.M.B. Hospital and Staff — including Dr. Arthur, 1910's.



R.M. Boswell Hospital, 1908. Note nurses' residence on side.

The official opening of the Rolland M. Boswell Hospital was in October, 1907, with Dr. Rush and Dr. Field as attending doctors and Miss Playfair as matron. The facilities had been used prior to the opening. Late in 1907 Dr. George Arthur was sent from Wakaw, Sask. to Vegreville to be the Medical Superintendent.

I quote from the minutes of the W. M. S. General Assembly 1910-1911.

"Vegreville Hospital has proved a great boon to all classes of settlers and its work and influence among the foreign element is steadily increasing. During the year a Nurses Home was built and furnished which made for more patients in the hospital as nurses had lived in it prior to this."

The work of the R. M. B. Hospital continued to expand and develop under the capable superintendency of Dr. Arthur. A new heating system was installed and necessary equipment added.

In 1914 Dr. Arthur resigned as medical superintendent and the hospital was placed under new management. A lady superintendent, matron, was appointed to oversee the work under the Hospital Board. By this date two resident doctors were in

town, Dr. Field and Dr. Monkman, to be followed by Dr. R. M. Reid who replaced Dr. Field and was associated with the hospital until its closure in 1937. Other doctors using the facilities were Dr. Couillard and Dr. Knowles.

The Sisters of Charity had built a larger, more modern hospital which is now the Municipal Hospital Complex. The W.M.S. felt that a mission hospital was needed elsewhere so the R. M. B. Hospital was closed out under Matron Miss MacPherson. The building was demolished and all moveable equipment was shipped to their frontier hospital at Rocky Mountain House. The Presbyterian Mission Hospital had served its purpose.

St. Joseph's General Hospital and School of Nursing, Vegreville, Alberta

Probably the most important factor in the development of the Vegreville community was the excellent health facilities offered from the very beginning of the settlement, the major long-time service being St. Joseph's General Hospital and its School of Nursing. In 1910 Rev. Father Bernier of St. Martin of Tours parish, Vegreville, and newly-arrived Dr. A. Couillard, invited The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Evron to come to Vegreville to establish and staff a hospital. Accordingly, Sister Marie Victoire Bruhay, Sister Josephine Boisseau of Trochu, Sister Marie Louise Martigne and Sister Marie Doisneau of France came to our district, serving their first patients in the rectory located on the north side of the river in Frenchtown. Construction of a hospital was undertaken during 1911 and in October of that year a 36 x 90 foot building was dedicated and officially opened on the site now used as a parking lot just south of the river. Initially, three doctors were in attendance: August Couillard, C. Field and H. Monkman.

Under the capable direction of Sister Josephine, a nursing school was started in 1915; a few years later this school was approved by provincial authorities. The first Graduation Exercises took place in 1918 when Misses McDougall and C. Ford received their diplomas. In 1922 a little cottage south of the hospital became "home" for the nurses, renovated and elongated; this home served until the construction of the Present building in 1959. The dedication of the Sisters of Charity as administrators and staff, together with capable doctors and nurses and laborers, kept the hospital running smoothly despite problems such as depression and floods. In 1926 St. Joseph's received accreditation from the American College of Surgeons. The hospital grounds were landscaped in the early days and continue to be a pleasant sight today, although the once-fertile gardens which sup-



Sr. M. Francoise Jouin — 2nd Superior and Administrator, about 1920.

plied much of the hospital fare have now been given up. Many local people found work at the institution, including several members of the Plouffe family.

Numerous district girls trained as nurses there, some of the earlier graduates being: Anna Landry, Rose Callahan, Nellie McAreavy, J. Bartman, N. Green, Eileen McCarty, Sophie Bartman, Helen Triska. Out-of-town trainees were always welcomed to the community, especially by the young local lads, many of whom found their wives in the roster of attractive nurses. Graduation Exercises became a formal, exciting event in Vegreville, with as many as two dozen girls receiving diplomas at one time.

In 1933 a new wing was added; in 1949 pharmacists Cliff and Kathleen King began pharmacy service in the hospital; a third addition was effected in 1950 to give a much-needed Pediatric Ward, Operating Rooms and a Chapel. Through the years local citizens have been much involved in hospital work, donating food in the early days and hospitality to the trainees. Organizations have provided many comforts and much equipment to the several buildings connected with the hospital. The year 1959 saw affiliated nurses' training with Edmonton General and



Vegreville General Hospital, about 1918.



General Hospital, about 1920.

Psychiatric Institutes. The year 1960 marked the golden anniversary of the hospital and the official opening of the new Nurses' Residence (now used as Health Unit centre and Nurses' Aide residence). Because of a chronic shortage of instructors and a decrease in wide hospital experience, the nursing program was discontinued in 1971, after producing 428 graduates and contributing much to nursing education in the west. Citizens still miss the smiling ministrations of the nurses-in-training but are consoled by the fact that many of the "grads" live and work here yet.

Some former administrators include: Sisters Marie Jouin, Marie Terese Heli, Anna Keohane, Anna O'Donovan, Josephine Boisseau, Helen Lavasseur, Laura Chalut, Albertine Landry, Mary Ellen O'Neill and Ruth Wirachowsky. Present administrator is Eugene Rudyk. Raymond Tetreau was a long-time assistant administrator.

The roster of doctors includes: Couillard, Belanger, Field, Monkman, Knowles, Reid Sr., Yakimischak, Shandro, Svarich, Reid Jr., Yoneda, Yanda, Kuzyk, Edmunds, Stefancik, Lukenchuk, Chang, Toderovich, Hnydyk. Dr. S. H. Hardin was the dentist in attendance for many years.

Some other longtime personnel were: Sisters Ur-

sula Whitey, Beatrice Bigelow, Dorothy Beaudoin, Cecile Clermont, Madeleine Beaulieu, Mary Agnes Knievel, Yvonne Lafarge, Germaine Labonte, Leone Boivin and Helene Fedoruk.

Traditionally, Vegrevillians have been strong supporters of their hospital, some local people having served further by acting on the hospital board for years.

In 1965, with Government co-operation, a new St. Joseph's General Hospital was erected (present site) with more modern facilities and seventy beds, with provision for additional space as required by community growth.



Sisters of Charity, 1978.



General Hospital, 1928.



Sisters of Charity, Vegreville, 1939.



First R.C. St. Martin's Church, about 1930.



Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, about 1915.



First St. Joseph's Hospital during flood of 1943; old Nurses' Residence in background and team used for a taxi.



Sister Josephine, 1954.



Pediatric ward in New General Hospital, about 1979.



Some faithful Auxilians making a donation of a chair-lift to St. Joseph's General Hospital, 1960. (l. to r.) — Louise Cole, Jean Craddock (pres.), Mrs. Hunchak (patient), Sister Laura, Margarett McCarty, Bessie Tunis.



First Hospital Chapel, about 1920.



St. Joseph's Hospital 50th anniversary float, 1965.



Chapel in new wing of General Hospital, about 1935.



St. Joseph's Hospital and Sisters of Charity. Recreation time for Sisters of Charity in summer pavilion near hospital (St. Martin's church in background), about 1920. (l. to r.) — Sisters Blanche, Maria, Josephine, Marie Françoise, Marie, Augustine, Margaret, unknown, Valerie.



St. Joseph's General Hospital being constructed, 1910. Charles Hayter looking out of top floor window; he was building the arch of the windows out of brick. Ben Tetreau was one of the other workers.



New Nurses' Residence, 1960.



Sisters of Charity, Vegreville, about 1930.



Vegreville flood, 1956.

The History of Minburn Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home District #22 compiled by Eleanor Gault

The Auxiliary Hospital Districts, each composed of wards, were established in 1960, under the Authority of Section 3 — The Auxiliary Hospitals Act, being chapter 7 S.A. 1960.

Pursuant to Ministerial Order #4646/61 issued under authority of section 3 of the Alberta Hospitals Act, the Minburn Eagle Auxiliary Hospital District

#22 was incorporated by Order in Council 2026/61 in 1961.

Mr. John Symyrozum was appointed as the initial chairman of the board.

Five wards constituted the District; namely

Wards 1 - 2 Municipal district of Minburn #72
Paul Trynchuk, Mannville, Alberta
B. D. Samoil, Lavoy, Alberta.

Wards 3 - 4 Municipal district of Eagle #81
John Duda, Myrnam, Alberta
Merton Mehalcheon, Two Hills, Alberta.

Ward 5 — Town of Vegreville
John Symyrozum, Vegreville, Alberta.

The object of the Auxiliary Hospital district was to provide and operate an Auxiliary hospital for the treatment of chronic illnesses, diseases or infirmities, the physical plant and standard of services, which will warrant approval of the hospital to entitle patients in the participating municipalities to benefits under the provincial hospitalization plan.

In 1962 permission was granted to construct a 50 bed Auxiliary Hospital, in the town of Vegreville, on the property adjacent to St. Joseph's General Hospital. The project cost, Building — \$375,000.00 or \$7500 per bed, equipment and furniture — \$100,000.00.

On October 15, 1964, as construction of the Auxiliary Hospital was nearing completion the Governing Board employed Mrs. M. G. Gault as first matron-administrator of Minburn Eagle Auxiliary Hospital District No. 22.

At this point, the main thrust of Mrs. Gault's responsibility was to organize every facet of the hospital, completely furnish and equip the hospital for occupancy.

With long hours of hard work, plus the assistance from her late husband, Michael G. Gault, Superintendent of Schools, the hospital organization was completed by March 15, 1965 when the first patient was admitted.

In May 1967, within the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation approved 2-year occupancy, Minburn Auxiliary Hospital attained its full three-year accreditation status. It was the first Auxiliary Hospital to attain the full three-year accreditation status on its first survey. This is a status which the hospital continues to enjoy.

The first chief of Medical staff was the late Dr. Edmunds, M.D.

The Alberta Nursing Home Plan, operated under the Nursing Home Act, came into force in 1964. The major characteristics of the Nursing Home Plan was to provide personal care to those residents of the

Province of Alberta who required personal care and were unable, due to varying circumstances to provide personal care for themselves.

The province was divided into thirty-two potential Auxiliary Hospital Districts. It was considered advisable to utilize the same geographical divisions for the purpose of setting up nursing home districts. The Boards of the incorporated auxiliary hospital districts who were vested with the power to construct and operate auxiliary hospitals, were vested with additional power to provide nursing home facilities.

In 1964, the Governing Board in its long range planning had an order-in-council #1466/64 change the name of District to "Minburn Eagle Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home District #22", in order to facilitate nursing home care to meet the health needs of the community.

In 1967, permission was granted to provide 70 nursing home beds. Two nursing homes, namely Vegreville Nursing Home, Vegreville, Alberta and Eagleview Nursing Home, Two Hills, Alberta were constructed. In 1970 each Nursing Home admitted its first resident.

1973 — Within three years of operation again of the allotted time occupancy, the Vegreville and Eagleview Nursing Homes each attained their three-year accreditation status. Vegreville Nursing Home has retained this status in 1979 survey.

1974 — Two events occurred:

1. Vermilion River flood engulfed the hospital area. Ninety people were evacuated from both the Auxiliary Hospital and Vegreville Nursing Home. Both entities remained vacant for two weeks. The 90 people were located in various neighboring hospitals as well as personal homes.

2. As the trend dictated, a ministerial order HSC 12/74, separated the Minburn Eagle Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home District #22, into two districts, namely:

1) Minburn Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home District #22 which included the County of Minburn and all organized municipalities, including the Town of Vegreville.

2) Two Hills General Hospital and Nursing Home District #27. This separation involved changes in Governing Board. The Board was appointed for a three-year period. Chairman — P. Trynchuk, Members — J. Symyrozum, J. Huzil, W. Ursuliak, H. Huculak.

In 1979 — two original board members, namely: P. Trynchuk, Mannville, Alberta, and J. Symyrozum, Vegreville, Alberta, have dedicated nearly 20 years of public service for the welfare of their fellow men.

The Hospitals' Auxiliary plays a great role in

supporting the Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home activities. The ladies put in hours of volunteer work for the good of the less fortunate people.

In 1979, fifteen years later, the facilities are very busy indeed. They are filled the year round. The Board employs approximately 85 people. Some of the employees have provided over 10 years of continuous and dedicated service to the long-term care facilities.

The staff-formed "Patients Comfort Society" provides tours, fun, diversional activities for the handicapped.

Vegreville And District Chamber Of Commerce(Short History)

by G. J. Nestman

Shortly after the Townsite of New Vegreville was occupied, business men of the hamlet organized a Business Men's Association; a few months later this association met at the law office of Landry and Morrison to discuss the forming of a Board of Trade. This was enthusiastically followed up by a further meeting on the 28th of May, 1906 when application was forwarded by wire to the Registrar at Ottawa for incorporation under the Board of Trade Act.

The membership fee was set at \$10.00 per annum. The following officers were elected:

— President — C. R. Morton
— Vice-President — Hope Alanson
— Secretary — F. A. Morrison

Chairmen of Committees

Finance — W. P. Perkins
Health — Dr. W. T. Rush
Retail — A. W. Fraser
Bureau of Information — A. L. Horton
Public Works — Wm. Clements
Arbitration — Charles Gordon
Transportation — George Robertson
Agriculture — M. A. Worth
Wholesale — W. T. Clements

Besides the above named, chartered members were: B. T. Huyke, George Walker, Ben Tetreau, H. McAllister, Alf Miller, A. I. Walter, F. W. Ervin, Eugene Clark, W. H. Ashdown, S. W. Fisher, A. M. Thompson, A. H. Middleton, L. Gully, E. W. Abbott, A. H. Goodwin, J. W. Smith, James Spellman, D. G. Rose, Wm. McKenzie, W. Curtis, G. E. Masters, B. Thereaux.

A Special Meeting was called for January 30th, 1907. At this meeting Wm. Clements reported for the delegation; the report was, in effect, that the Provincial Government was ready to support the building of a telephone line to the North providing that the Board of Trade procure the poles. They could not state



George Ziegler, while resident farmer in 1957, was President of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce.

definitely, until later in the session exactly what support could be given.

The meeting of February 5, 1907, read, moved by A. M. Thompson, seconded by F. A. Morrison that the Secretary-Treasurer send one-half of all number of the Board of Trade Pamphlets on hand to the C. N. Railway Information Bureau, St. Paul, Minn. to be used for advertising purposes.

On March 14, 1907, the Board of Trade was confronted with a petition from the people in Hairy Hill District complaining of the mail service. This brought a motion, that the President and the committee for Public Works, draft a letter recommending a change in the mail service to the districts to the north of Vegreville and forward it to the proper authorities.

On Wednesday, May 8, 1907, it was moved by C. Gordon, seconded by Wm. Clements that the salary of the Secretary-Treasurer for the year 1907 be \$150.00 with an additional \$50.00 to be granted by the Board at the last meeting in the year, if finances permit. Cr. A. N. Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer.

September 11, 1907, it was moved by A. W. Fraser, seconded by C. Gordon, that the Secretary procure prize lists from the Agriculture Society, if possible, and send each member of the Edmonton Board of Trade a copy. Cr.

At this same meeting the Board of Trade concerned themselves about setting up a special commit-

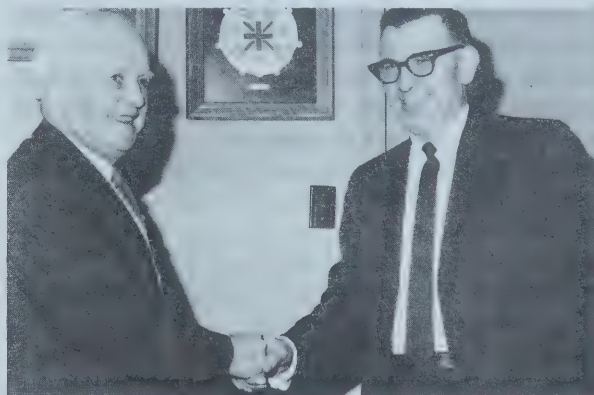
tee that would not be the Board of Trade, for the erection of a skating rink.

On February 12, 1909, President M. A. Worth in the Chair and Frank Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer, opened a lively discussion. This being on railway; Mr. Worth brought forth unanimous expressions that an opposition railway company to the one at present in town should build the Calgary to Vegreville railway. Jas. Holden spoke at length re this matter, mentioning he did not consider the line should stop at Vegreville, but should continue to the North, either to Athabasca Landing or Fort McMurray.

At November 11, 1910, Board of Trade meeting a motion by Chas. Gordon, seconded A. M. Thompson, that a committee be appointed to draft resolution to be forwarded to W. H. White M. P. to be laid before the Dominion, asking for a Demonstration Farm to be established in the Vegreville District and such a resolution to be laid before the council of the Board of Trade, at the next meeting. Committee appointed: Wm. Clements, Dr. Monkman, George Walker.

At the general meeting held Feb. 1911, the Secretary reported having received no particulars from Jas. B. Holden M. P. P. re resolution handed him for presentation to the Provincial Government for the establishment of a New Judicial District for the District, Vegreville to be the Official Centre. The site has already been purchased and the building will house the Court House and the Land Title Office. On motion — Lacy Gully, A. W. Fraser — that the Secretary write J. B. Holden M. P. P. for information in regard to the resolution asking for immediate reply. Cr.

A meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Monday, February 27, 1911 in the Town Hall at 3:30 P. M. with 43 members present. Letter read by the Secretary, received by J. B. Holden from A. L. Sifton re resolution for appointment of a Judicial



Fred Laing (l) congratulating Henry Landry on his election as President of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce. 1960's.

District of Vegreville, with the building of a Court House and Land Title Office. The financial statement for the year 1910 was read by the Secretary, showing a deficit of \$11.87 and an outstanding account for about \$50.00, total indebtedness \$61.87. On motion W. Clements, seconded Dr. H. Monkman report was adopted.

On November 21, 1911, President A. S. Maxwell (Manager of the Merchant Bank of Canada) was in the chair and Secretary Frank Wilson at hand. It was decided to put down an anchor, by the following motion: Moved by J. P. Holden seconded J. McNeill that the Secretary write the Canadian Northern Railway, re site for building ice for skating near the station site at a nominal rental. Cr.

At the February 2nd, 1912, Board of Trade meeting, A. L. Horton outlined what the railway lines from Calgary to Vegreville and Northward (Athabaska landing or Fort McMurray) would mean to Vegreville. He pointed out how the proposed northern line, from Lamont and referred to as "Bruderheim to Vermilion" line, would take the trade away from Vegreville.

February 14, 1912 the Board of Trade meeting was held in the Town Hall at 4:00 P. M. Present being James McNeill, Wm. Clements, A. Svarich, G. D. Armstrong, H. McClary, E. J. Clark, T. Bolaan, Dr. Arthur, W. J. Clements, L. Gully, Pres. A. S. Maxwell and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Wilson.

The railway came under discussion and disapproval was voiced regarding the proposed northern railway line, referred to as the Bruderheim-Vermilion line, that would run parallel to the existing rail line.

The Secretary was instructed to proceed and make all necessary enquiries to the East of procuring for Vegreville a Veterinary Surgeon.

It was March 2, 1912, when the Vegreville Board of Trade got its first financial boost. The Secretary read a letter from the Town Clerk, announcing the Council had made a grant of \$1500.00 for 1912. This money was greatly needed for the 7000 pamphlets and the advertising that the Board of Trade was conducting. This is also the year that natural gas had made itself known in the district.

A committee was then appointed to recommend a building and site for a new office for the Board of Trade.

The Board of Trade meeting of July 17, 1912 had President A. S. Maxwell in the Chair and now A. J. Gould was Secretary-Treasurer. A letter was read from the secretary of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, relating to the excessive rates charged by the Railway Companies, for carriage of merchandise in Western Canada. It was resolved, that this letter be referred to

F. A. Morrison, the town solicitor, and that he be asked to call the attention of the Commission to the fact that Vegreville is interested in the fight for more equitable treatment in the matter of railway rates, moved by A. H. Goodwin, Sec. C. Gordon. Cr.

Also a letter from J. C. Davies, Publicity Committee of the Lloydminster Board of Trade, was read, covering a copy of a Resolution of that Board soliciting our cooperation in the work of the Canadian Highways Association; it was resolved: That a letter be written to the Lloydminster Board of Trade to the effect that we are in sympathy with the objective on their resolution, and that they be requested to inform us from whom they obtained their information and how we can enter into communication with the Canadian Highways Association. Moved by A. H. Goodwin, second E. J. Clark. Cr.

On August 28, 1912, a letter was read from R. W. Miller, representative of the Manitoba Free Press, offering the Board of Trade a whole page written article, illustrations to appear in one day's issue, providing the Board of Trade obtains 50 annual subscriptions, including renewals, at \$1.50 per subscription. By the old receipt book uncovered with the Minute Book, it is fair to say the subscriptions were sold.

At the December 3rd, 1912, Board of Trade meeting the matter was brought up regarding a new Post Office building. The Secretary was instructed to write F. A. Morrison on the matter with the hopes that he would bring this to the attention of the Postmaster-General. On January 29, 1913, at the Board of Trade meeting a letter was read from Mr. Morrison, which stated, tenders for the erection of the new Post Office would be called for in the spring.

By this time there were a few things in the Town of Vegreville that were only there because of the consistent work of the Board of Trade. To name some, the Natural Gas Well at 1360 feet which came to pass April 3rd, 1913. The Vegreville Calgary Railway was approaching completion and shooting the land prices up. Lots that were being sold for \$80.00 to \$100.00 per frontage foot, now went to \$200.00 per frontage foot. Vegreville had two brickyards, sash and door factory, flour mill, shoe factory, steam laundry, tannery and the Board was out to get more. On October 4 the Manitoba Free Press in Winnipeg did give coverage to the above but not to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade.

To just bring into the limelight what the Vegreville Board of Trade was doing, one must refer to the publication, Realty and Building Record, issue of August 3rd, 1912. In big block lettering is the word "VEGREVILLE" and underneath this in capital letter size is the wording:

"BOARD OF TRADE ISSUES BOOKLET SETTING FORTH ADVANTAGES OF DISTRICT"

following with:

Vegreville had a good "Booster" in A. J. Gould, secretary of the board of Trade of that town, who has just issued an illustrated booklet setting forth the claims of the district. It says:

"The Vegreville district has for its central town, Vegreville, which is situated on the transcontinental line of the Canadian Northern Railway. The Town of Vegreville is between Winnipeg and Edmonton, having a material advantage in being in direct touch with the Pacific coast outlet of that railway; an advantage that will be vastly accentuated with the opening of the Panama Canal in 1915.

"Vegreville is the northern terminus of the Vegreville-Calgary line of the Canadian Northern. This brings it in close touch with Edmonton (the capital city of Alberta, with a population of upwards of 40,000); and also Calgary in southern Alberta, a city with a population of 55,000.

"Vegreville is some 750 miles west of Winnipeg, Manitoba which has a population of over 150,000. Vegreville is thirty miles south of the North Saskatchewan river, and is on the Vermilion river. The town has a population of 1,500, and is the centre of an unequalled farming district. That the town is making good progress is indicated by the fact that in the year 1905 its present site was an unbroken prairie."

The secretary was instructed to obtain 700 addresses from the Le Claire-King Company of Davenport, Iowa, as recommended by the Canadian Government Agent, Frank H. Hewitt, Des Moines, Iowa, with which to proceed to advertise Vegreville. This was moved by Dr. Arthur and P. M. Dobbins. Further the Secretary to write to the City Council of Edmonton offering them cooperation of the Board of Trade in any undertaking they may adopt to obtain

their Natural Gas supply from Vegreville after consultation with the Town Council.

The Vegreville Board of Trade at this time must have been known far and wide, because a letter was sent to them from The Pas, Manitoba, requesting their support to have the railway completing the connection of The Pas to the Hudson Bay.

On January 14, 1914, the Board of Trade requested the Town Council arrange for the lighting and heating of their office with gas. Here it can be mentioned that the Calgary Daily Herald on Jan. 13th carried the following in bold lettering:

"VEGREVILLE MAIN STREET LIT BY ITS OWN GAS LAMPS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE."

On January 20, 1914, at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trade the President referred to the work of the past year and deplored the fact that so little had been done, owing to the absence of funds, with which to carry out any definite programme.

The Board of Trade was not functioning as smoothly as it should due to lack of funds and the first World War was on. On January 19, 1915, the Annual Meeting was held where A. W. Fraser was elected President and A. J. Gould was reappointed Secretary-Treasurer. This was followed by a regular meeting held January 29th. Due to lack of funds the Board of Trade consolidated to a committee of three: P. M. Dobbins, M. A. Worth and A. L. Maxwell. These agreed to arrange whereby the work of the Board of Trade would continue. At this meeting a committee of A. L. Horton, M. A. Worth and the President were to draft a letter to Frank Oliver, expressing the desire that the conventions of the Liberal and Conservative Associations be held in this town.

By the Minute Book we find that the next meeting of the Board of Trade was held June 11, 1917 in A. W. Fraser's office. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the question of renting the Board of Trade Office. On motion W. T. Clements and seconded by H. L. Cunningham, the office be rented to Messrs. Worth and Holden for the sum of \$20.00 per month. Subject to a month's notice to vacate from either side.

After this there was an annual or organizational meeting. This meeting was held January 27, 1919, in the Town Hall. Here it can be assumed that the Charter had been lost. At this meeting A. W. Fraser took the chair and addressed the gathering, asking if the name should remain Board of Trade, it was Cr. It was moved at this meeting that the Secretary's salary should be \$50.00 per month and the citizen fee \$5.00 while the associated member pay \$2.50. Elected as President was J. B. Holden.

On February 14, 1919, at the Executive meeting the Secretary was instructed to write the Minister of



Felicitations, Dr. Hardin (l.) and Mr. Olyan, 1970's.

Public Works at Ottawa, pointing out that a site was purchased for a Post Office here some nine years ago, but as yet nothing has been done towards building one.

Also letters to A. Shandro M. P. P. and J. McCallum M. P. P. asking them to fix a date in March for a meeting here to discuss roads, bridges and telephones and to arrange for the Minister of Public Works to be present if possible.

The monthly meeting held March 15, 1919, dealt with a request to the Provincial Government that all monies they obtain from the sale of automobile license fees be returned to the Municipalities wherein such fees originate. This for the sole purpose of building roads. It was decided to further pursue this matter by circulating a petition.

Also they dealt with a very lengthy resolution which set out in detail their request for higher returns for wheat to the farmer; in part it read:

"That this Board of Trade ask the government to take steps without further delay to fix the price of the 1919 wheat crop on the same basis as that of 1918 and that we ask the Government of the Province to assist us, prevailing on the Federal Government to fix the prices for 1919."

To widen the sphere of influence the Board of Trade was again inaugurated on the 17th of October, 1923, including the Municipalities of Norma, Patricia, Eagle, as well as the Town of Vegreville. M. L. Gordon continued as President, G. H. Scott, Vice-President, Norman Blue, Secretary.

In January, 1925, John H. Fitzallen became the Secretary, a post he carried with executive ability (being Secretary-Treasurer for the Town of Vegreville) for the following 20 years. He was succeeded by Fred W. Laing, who was the C.P.R. Station Agent. It is worthwhile to mention at this point that Mr. Laing made use of his railway free pass to represent Vegreville Chamber of Commerce at such far places as Montreal and others in Eastern Canada and not forgetting places in Alberta.

In 1929 the name was changed from the Board of Trade to the present Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce, which organization, affiliated with the National Chamber of Commerce, continued to function down through the years until the present time.

We would not do justice to the Chamber's history if we did not try to mention all who held the position of President through the ensuing years. We are unable to give the year in which each President served, due to the space it would take and lapping time that some Presidents served. One thing we can mention is that this Chamber of Commerce has lived up to the incorporated name, "District" by having at least four

distinguished country resident farmers as their President. Speaking of Presidents we should not overlook the fact that three past Presidents are now Judges in Alberta.

Now to mention some of the Presidents, to bring us up closer to the present day: H. S. Hurlburt, whose law firm played a role in bringing forth the present name, "Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce", Charles Gordon, A. W. Fraser, Charles Clifton, A. W. Shaw, Fred Laing, Mel Bond.

During the hungry 30's singular community service was given freely by the Public Welfare Committee under the active Chairmanship of M. L. Gordon. It was a proud yet modest boast that no family within the precincts of Vegreville would go hungry, nor child be deprived of candy or a toy on Christmas morning. Hampers were prepared and packed with what was most appropriate to suit the family need by the energy and care of Mrs. Helen Morton and her Women's Institute Committee. The financial sinews were ably taken care of down through the years by M. L. Gordon and his Chamber of Commerce public welfare committee. When Mr. Gordon transferred to Red Deer his work was taken up by Mel Bond.

Another feature worth mentioning was sparked by Charlie Clifton during the same depression period when a carload of fresh vegetables, freely given by generous farmers and gardeners, was assembled, carried free of charge by the Canadian National Railway and distributed to less fortunate families in the drought area in the south.

We must mention that the Vegreville Chamber is the one that fathered the present Alberta Chamber of Commerce, an organization to encompass all Chambers of Commerce in the Province. This was done by Vegreville's active President J. B. Holden and the associated Secretary John Fitzallen. These two gentlemen were then awarded the position in the newly-formed Alberta Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Holden President, and Mr. Fitzallen, Secretary. In later years the title of Honourary President was bestowed upon Mr. J. B. Holden. This same organization has at this present day a voice in it from Vegreville by having none other than Jerry Wilde, a past President and an accountant in his own right as the Provincial Treasurer. Mr. Wilde has held this position from 1977 to the present time.

It has been mentioned, that some of the work at this period was done by the Chamber of Commerce, but the exact time and details are not available, due to the Minute Book being misplaced.

Let this not deter us from mentioning the Presidents and the highlights whenever this information is possible.

In 1937 Fred W. Laing became President, fol-

lowed by W. A. Headrick, E. C. Miller and Neil Primrose. In 1940 Fred W. Laing became secretary-treasurer, a post he held for over fifteen years. Mr. Laing was the C.P.R. Agent and during his time as Secretary he could have been labelled as Manager of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Laing held a free pass on the railway; this was put to good use by the Chamber, delegating Mr. Laing to represent the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce, be it in Montreal, Toronto, or any place in the prairie provinces.

Other Presidents to follow, this being 1941: M. W. Bond, J. E. Fitzallen, Caroll McClure, Archie Little, John Decore, W. H. Beacom, Steve Pawliuk, Alex Mandruk and Harry Olyan. On November 21, 1968 Fred Laing and Harry Olyan in the presence of 57 members and their spouses were honoured by receiving Life Membership to the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mandruk since holding the position as President has had various tasks and one which we will mention now is the auditing of the Chamber's books annually.

In 1950 Russell Nikiforuk took on the presidency and it seems he held this position for three years followed by Jack Klien, Roy Boddy, John Koshuta, George Ziegler and Joe Fedechko, who held the position for two years.

It was during Mr. Fedechko's term that a new Secretary-Treasurer was hired, J. C. Spence, Jack as he was commonly called. Mr. Spence was also the C. P. R. Agent, (the same as Mr. Laing had been). Since the C. P. R. was discontinuing their passenger service, it left Mr. Spence with quite a bit of time to devote to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Spence was harnessed to many committees and lot of these had to do with the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber provided Mr. Spence with office space in the Centennial Building.

Here we will mention one job that was conceived by the Chamber of Commerce and carried out by Mr. Spence. We could call it, "Who owes and who has written an N.S.F. Cheque." The merchants were assessed a fee and in turn would send all the names of their delinquent accounts and also the name of any N.S.F. cheque they had, to Mr. Spence. He in turn would compile these names, and once a month issue a circular. This helped greatly to cut down on the delinquent accounts and stopped any of the local residents from issuing N.S.F. cheques.

In 1959 Mike Craddock was the President, followed by A. M. Scholton, Terry Soldan, Sol Lucow and George Kravetz. It should be mentioned that Terry Soldan was elected by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce to be the representative for the North Eastern Zone. This position entailed keeping in per-

sonal touch with all the local Chamber of Commerce Associations in the Zone, and seeing that they were active.

We would like to bring forth another endeavour by the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and how the members worked at this so faithfully, namely Industrial Development Board. To give you a clear picture of what and how the Industrial Development Board worked, we will publish one set of complete minutes, of the September 27, 1960 meeting.

Minutes of the Industrial Development Board Tuesday Sept. 27th 1960

A meeting of the Number (1) Section of the Industrial Development Board was held in the Civic Building on Tuesday September 27th when all nine members of this section were present.

Chairman Alex Mandruk occupied the chair and with opening remarks to the effect that the Industrial Development Board is now recognized by the Council of the Town of Vegreville and the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Alex followed with an outline of the powers of this board.

The committees were next surveyed.

(2) Publicity . . . Chairman Alex felt that a great injustice had been done to Vegreville in the past with their water supply and it was the feeling that we should secure a good picture of our present water supply and an article should be written and given to the Edmonton papers as well as local. We should work in a two-fold nature (Press and Brochure). We should also secure the Financial Post for outlets.

(3) Finance . . . The matter of the five hundred dollars operation expenses would be forth-with at the end of this month. On motion of John Koshuta and Al Scholton that Ross White be appointed treasurer . . . Carried. On motion of John Koshuta and Alex Gordey that the Chairman of this board and the treasurer have power to negotiate cheques.

Secretary . . . On motion of Cliff King and Frank Fane that Jack Spence be appointed Secretary of this board . . . Carried

(4) Research . . . Fred Parrish to call meeting of this section.

(5) Industrial Sites . . . Cliff King gave us a very interesting report with detailed blueprint of the industrial sites available and the requirements for expansion should industry come in.

Chairman Alex requested that the chairman of each sub-committee bring in a short report at the next regular meeting of the Vegreville Chamber.

With respect to the Provincial Industrial Board meeting to be held in Camrose Oct 6th and 7th it was the feeling that we should have a representation from this board at this meeting and with reference to a

Chamber meeting of June 16th at which John Koshuta with Mike Craddock to act as alternate on the Alberta Development Industrial Board, Mr. Koshuta due to other commitments would not be able to attend, Chairman Alex advised would contact Mike.

Industrial Board Sept. 27th

As Secretary had not advised the Industrial Development Board in Edmonton following the June 16th regular Chamber meeting of our appointee to represent Vegreville on this Board, the Secretary was to advise Mr. Richard Martland, Director Of Industrial Development Board with a copy of the Board Members.

Mr. Gordey said he would contact Mr. Martland immediately to the effect that there would be a representation at Camrose October 6th and 7th from this board.

Secretary was instructed to add a post-script to the list to Mr. Martland that this board had been approved by the Town of Vegreville and the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and initial same.

John Koshuta brought up the matter of Transport Trucks tying up at Vegreville overnight and it was felt we should investigate to see if any assistance could be given and to encourage more to make Vegreville their stop-off point; it was felt this was good business.

John Koshuta brought to our attention that we lacked an air strip and its gain to Vegreville. Frank Fane advised he would look into the matter and secure information from Ottawa and advise when he had information.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM on motion of Cliff King.

A. T. Mandruk
Chairman

J. Spence
Secretary

In the year 1964 Wilfred Horton became President with follow-up of Dr. L. M. Edmunds, Arthur Schmidt, Joe LoBalbo and Henry Landry. As can be seen, Joe LoBalbo's name did not come up in the above minutes, but that is not saying Joe did not work there. Mr. LoBalbo was elected by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce to be the representative for the North-Eastern Zone, a position which entails keeping in personal touch with all local Chamber of Commerce Associations in the Zone, and seeing that they are active.

At the Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting on December 16th, 1965, Mrs. Kay McKenzie, the Vegreville Welcome Wagon Hostess, was present to outline the work of the "Welcome Wagon" which was set up in Vegreville a few months ago.

On March 17th, 1966, at this Chamber of Commerce meeting with 29 members and 6 guests President, Art Schmidt, introduced Barry Spielman of the

Alberta Government Telephones. Mr. Spielman informed the gathering that Vegreville could become the largest Micro Wave Centre in Alberta. At the following monthly meeting the President outlined the Northern Lakes Tourist Association and on motion, Sol Lucow and Henry Landry, that we do not join this Association, due to the heavy expense involved.

On the June 16th, 1966 Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Mike Craddock reported on the parking problem and brought in several suggestions, one of them that the old fire hall be torn down and made into a parking lot. The secretary was instructed to write to the town in connection with this, full report to be brought in by the committee for the September meeting.

On October 20, 1966 meeting Jerry Wilde reported on a recent survey to retain Highway 16 through the Town of Vegreville. The results to be 64 for the highway and 4 against. Motion by Joe LoBalbo and Henry Landry:

"That the Chamber ask the Town Council to consider two of its members to form a committee with Alex Gordey M. L. A. to meet with Minister Gordon Taylor re Highway 16 through the Town of Vegreville." Cr.

On February 16th, 1967, acting on a suggestion by W. L. Horton, the Chamber approved a proposal that a Centennial Medallion be struck for the Town to commemorate Centennial Year: Motion by Horton and Lakusta, Cr.

At this same meeting Andrew Svarich, long-time resident of Vegreville and member of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce, was honoured when he was presented with a Life Membership. F. W. Laing, a life member made the presentation.

April 20, 1967, the monthly meeting was held with President LoBalbo in the Chair and secretary J. C. Spence on hand, with 32 members and 1 guest. Terry Soldan reported on the float and he stated he will endeavour to have it prepared for the requests made. Motion by Dr. Edmunds seconded by Gordon Miller that we donate an amount in excess of ten dollars over last year to the Student from Vegreville Composite High School attending the United Nations Seminar.

Motion George Nestman seconded Henry Landry, that we again become a member of the Alberta Tourist Association.

It was the feeling of this body that we send representation to the Two Hills Centennial Project, May 30 and 31st, regarding a canoe entry, Dr. Edmunds to be contacted in this regard. Mr. Babchuk spoke regarding the petition being circulated in the Hairy Hill area, requesting that the subscribers in the Hairy Hill

Mutual Telephone Association be united with the dialing system in Vegreville. On motion by Dr. Edmunds — Sol Lucow that a letter be directed to the Minister of Telephones indicating the Chamber's wishes in support of the Hairy Hill petition.

Discussion followed with regard to the pending visit to our June Chamber meeting of Lieutenant-Governor Grant McEwen. It was decided that one hundred banquet tickets be issued on a fifty - fifty basis with the Canadian Legion.

The October 19, 1967 meeting had a motion by Henry Landry and Homeniuk, that we direct a letter to the Dean of Dentistry for an additional dentist in Vegreville.

March 31, 1968 Chamber of Commerce meeting was chaired by the President, Henry Landry, and J. C. Spence, Secretary present with 31 members and 2 guests. The following committee was set up to investigate the prospects of starting a Museum. Kaz Zuk, Fr. Kryschuk and Andrew Svarich were appointed to look into the matter and provide a report to the Chamber at a later date. Letter from the Library Board, soliciting the Chamber's support in the project of erecting a new library, was read out.

On the October 17th, 1968 Chamber of Commerce meeting Nick Chomik introduced the guest speaker, Walter Solodzuk, who has been with the Department of Agriculture since 1930, with the legislative controls, of water rights, and rights of diversion. Mr. Solodzuk outlined their records on Vegreville and its water supply and problems since 1950. He also went back to the early years, and up to our present time. He said their prediction for the Town of Vegreville was a population of 5000 by 1980, this would indicate that the water problem would then again surface.

Walter Kitt from Two Hills spoke on the prospects of establishing a museum in Vegreville. He advised that he had 10,000 items, and required assistance from local clubs to find a location; no financial help.

At the monthly meeting of February 20, 1969 secretary Spence read a letter from Paul Babey of the Farmers of Alberta; this was dealt with at length. This resulted in motion by George Nestman, Joe LoBalbo that Henry Landry and Gordon Miller be delegates to the Farmers Union Conference to be held in Edmonton March 10, 11th and 12th.

April 17th, 1969, the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce was honoured with national distinction. President Bob Sherman made the presentation of a silver tray to Miss Devra Drysdale for her outstanding accomplishment of being named Miss Honey Queen in the nationwide competition.

Vegreville Chamber of Commerce on May 15th

voted the sum of \$25.00 for the Parent Scout Association on behalf of Brent King who was being sent to Georgetown, Guyana, to represent the Scout movement.

At the June 19, 1969 meeting of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce Mrs. Marlene Trimble of the Hi Neighbour Service outlined her work and the purpose of the Hi Neighbour Service in Vegreville and what has taken place up until this date. She requested that a letter of welcome to new arrivals be prepared by the Chamber.

President Bob Sherman reported on the recent visit of Reg Easton of the Yellowhead Route Association. Mr. Easton requested 8 cents per capita from each community for advertising purposes on the Yellowhead Route. Motion by Horton, Chomik that a letter be drafted and sent to the town requesting this amount.

On the September 18, 1969 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Jerry Wilde drew the Chamber's attention to Mr. Kitt and his museum; several locations were discussed and the matter was turned over to the Industrial Development Committee. Motion by Schlamp, Nestman that some action be taken to improve our north and south roads to Vegreville. After some discussion it was decided to take this matter up at a later meeting.

Motion Craddock, Nestman that we arrange for a meal for the cyclists on route from Montreal to Japan, and that we present them with our Centennial Coins.

The November 20, 1969 Chamber of Commerce meeting brought forth 72 members and their spouses. Dr. Ross Cairns from the local Soil Research Station had just returned from a trip to Hungary, where he was a guest of the Hungarian Government. He took slides of his trip, which he showed and commented on as the slides were shown.

Dr. Hardin spoke on his new book "The History of Greater Vegreville". Motion by LoBalbo, Robert Robert that this Chamber issue a cheque from our Centennial Dollar Fund, to the amount of \$1,000.00 to Dr. Hardin, who will in turn, turn the monies over to the Library Fund. That a committee be appointed to publicize and dispose of the books and set the price. The committee be appointed by the Executive.

At the Executive Meeting on November 25th Dr. Hardin presented an outline of his new book, "Greater Vegreville". The following Committee was appointed to handle the sale of the present supply and plans were made for a future supply, Terry Soldan, Gordon Miller, Nip Olyan, Jack Spence, Mike Craddock and John Huzil. Books to be on sale at Tower Plumbing, Roberts Furniture and Cash Foods and it was decided to sell the books at \$10.00 each.

The monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held February 19, 1970, at the regular place, Chatelaine Restaurant Banquet Room with 33 present. J. C. Spence with the Minutes and President Robert Robert in the chair. Joe LoBalbo gave a most interesting talk on his recent trip, on behalf of the Chamber, attending Yellowhead Route Association meeting at Saskatoon, pointing out our greatest drawback to attracting tourists was the lack of camping facilities for overnight campers. He outlined several points in town that could be used and suggested that we give immediate study to this.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was announced that the price of meals for the Chamber would go up to \$1.75.

July 16th, 1970 meeting with President Robert and Secretary Spence present. A hearty vote of thanks was given to George Nestman for taking our float to Ryley.

Regarding sending our float to Edmonton Exhibition it was decided not to send it this year. Regarding the Campsite east of Town and with the installation of power, many kind remarks and comments have been passed on by tourists using the facilities. Regarding joining Lakeland Tourist Association the Secretary was instructed to write this body for full information as to costs, etc.

Chamber of Commerce October meeting dealt with a motion Wilde, Mandruk that the request from the Jaycees for assistance in the Christmas Lighting Contest be granted up to \$110.00. Jerry Wilde gave a report on the recent meeting of Lakeland Tourist Association meeting held in St. Paul and our share would be approximately \$385.00 for the year 1971. He gave a detailed outline of the Association's plan for the future. Gordon Miller spoke regarding the forthcoming banquet and dance in honour of the Master Farmers Award to Art Ziegler family. Peter Wyllie advised of the Hereford Breeders gathering to be held in Vegreville, November 1st. Nick Chomik informed the gathering of the Finals of the Figure Skating to be judged for the Dominion Games to be held in Vegreville, November 21st, 1970.

In the foregoing write-up we did touch on the Centennial Coin. This was a first for the Chamber of Commerce and for the Town. It was used as a trading Dollar as long as it was permissible. This not only paid for the minting but also a profit of around \$1400.00. Keeping this Trading Dollar in the hands of the merchants to circulate was the idea of secretary J. C. Spence. Mr. Spence died of a heart attack coming home from Edmonton.

November 19, 1970, The Chamber of Commerce Meeting was held in the Chatelaine Banquet Room. The meeting was opened by President Robert Robert

and acting Secretary-Treasurer R. M. Wemyss. (Mr. Wemyss was the Secretary-Treasurer for the Town of Vegreville). One minute of silence was observed in honour of J. C. Spence. The acting secretary was instructed to advise Mrs. Spence of this observation, on motion by J. Koshuta and S. Hardin. President Robert reported that the robbery in his store included \$90.00 in receipts for "Greater Vegreville" book.

For the year 1971 Bill Slipp, Manager of the Bank of Montreal, was president for the Chamber of Commerce, while R. W. Wemyss was the secretary-treasurer. At the February 18th meeting the Retail Merchants Association gave their outline of Krazy Daze to be held on June 18th and 19th. This was a first-time venture and the Chamber would help to make it a success. John Huzil reported on the excellent meeting of the Yellowhead Interprovincial Highway Association held in Edmonton, January 21st.

Dr. Sam Hardin reported on the book sales of the "History of Greater Vegreville" with a profit to date of \$1,027.48. Authority to forward this money to the Library Building Fund was given on motion by Dr. Sam Hardin and Alex Mandruk. Dr. Hardin extended his thanks to Alex Mandruk, Robert Robert, Terry Soldan, Wilf Horton and the late Jack Spence.

For the year 1972 a lawyer in the local law firm of Moshansky and Blonsky, Joe Blonsky was president while R. W. Wemyss was the Secretary-Treasurer. At the May 18th meeting, there was a request for a donation from the Vegreville Library Association. This was referred to the Civic Affairs Committee. On June 15th at the Chamber of Commerce meeting a donation of \$200.00 was approved on the motion of Dr. Kuzyk and Wilf Horton.

At the November 16th meeting John Huzil gave the outline of the Ukrainian Festival. Mr. Huzil was named Chairman of the Committee, with authority to add to the Committee as he sees fit, on motion Bill Slipp and Terry Soldan.

The Secretary-Treasurer to follow Mr. Spence was Robert Wemyss, who was the Secretary for the Town of Vegreville. Mr. Wemyss did not hold this position long with the Chamber, for he accepted a position with the Town of Wetaskiwin and moved there.

At this time we were well into the '70's and it was in 1973 that Jerry Wilde became president of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. The Secretary-Treasurer to lead off with Mr. Wilde was a retired gentleman, P. M. Shavchuk, who knew Vegreville well, because he taught school at Hairy Hill and went from there on to Two Hills as Secretary for the enlarged School District and became Secretary for the County of Two Hills for over twenty-five years. His friends and anyone who knew this gentle-

man, referred to him as P. M. As stated he and his wife came to retire in the Town of Vegreville. He was a dynamic worker for the Elks' Club, he belonged to the Vegreville Historical Society, he attended the Rotary Club, he was a church worker, he loved to curl and played golf, and with all these and more he accepted the position as Secretary-Treasurer for the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Shavchook was provided with an office in the Town Administration Building. This was a small office and P.M. Shavchook soon used the basement of his home to supplement the working space. P.M. worked with the presidents that followed namely Bill Dowhaniuk, Gordon Miller, Jerry Liden, Mac Vinet, Frank Golinsky and Lloyd Bauer. There were also committee chairmen and each and every one will say they worked with P.M. and always putting the emphasis on the word, "with". The writer worked very close with P.M. and can elaborate on his systematic and precise ways. The bank had to have their figures right as P.M. balanced them in his books. When the monthly cut-off came, P.M. knew to the cent how much money the Chamber had. P.M. wrote a receipt for every penny and every receipt and cheque was numbered. P.M. notified everyone by letter as to the place and date and time of the meetings, be they executive meetings or general. These invitations or notifications were done up in penmanship. You stopped to read it and you got the precise information needed, with the appropriate drawing to assure you this came from the Chamber of Commerce, the town with a future.

George Nestman spoke in the Chamber meetings for two years to get some object to identify the town by. The idea was to have something to stand at and have your picture taken and it would mean Vegreville. Nestman proposed a horse with height at least 30 feet. This idea kept surfacing at the monthly meetings, till Mrs. Kay McKenzie said, "Why not the Ukrainian Easter Egg?" There was a committee set up and chaired by Ralph Gorrie. P.M. did all he could to find the funding for this project, now known as the Vegreville Pysanka. The chamber holds all copyrights to this project. Funding of \$25,000.00 for this project came from the R.C.M.P. Century Celebration Committee and this had to be matched in equal amount by the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor of Vegreville, Virgil Moshansky, accepted the Chamber's Pysanka project and did all he could. The dedication for the Pysanka was held July 28, 1975.

To mention another outstanding first for the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce was at the Annual Meeting on January 17th, 1974. At this meeting everyone present was handed an attractive

completely printed Annual Report with the financial statement. On motion by Horton, Landry a vote of thanks was expressed to the secretary, P.M. Shavchook.

In 1974 the president for the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce was Wm. Dowhaniuk, the owner of a local Trucking Transfer firm, namely Vegreville Transfer Ltd.

At the April 18th meeting President, Wm. Dowhaniuk, moved a vote of thanks to George Nestman for his untiring efforts in preparing the Vegreville Profile Booklet.

In the year 1975 Gordon Miller, a resident farmer, was the president of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. This is one of the years that the Chamber had to raise money to pay for the Pysanka Programme. It was decided to get a medallion minted depicting the Pysanka and sell these to the merchants and they in turn could retail these. It was decided to get these medallions minted in all three metals, nickel, silver and gold. It was also decided to presell these medallions, that is, before delivery was made and to only order the gold medallions in the amount that were presold. At the Annual Meeting held on December 16th, 1975 with 260 members and guests in attendance, George Nestman reported that he had sold over \$6,000.00 worth of medallions. There were others also selling.

It was also announced that the Chamber had the copyright rights and anyone wanting to use the Pysanka had to pay a royalty fee of 10% to the Chamber.

In 1976 Jerry Liden was the President of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Liden was the manager of the local Co-op Store. The following year Mac Vinet was president. Mr. Vinet was the owner of Vinet's Tom-Boy Foods.

We could go on at great length writing about these two Presidents. It could be said these two men put in many hours of work in search of ways and means to get a multi-purpose building for this town. They spent many hours trying to find the best speakers to address the members at the monthly Chamber meetings. There was also the litigation these two gentlemen were subjected to with completion of the Pysanka. The contractors, who had the contract for supplying all the components that went into the Pysanka, found themselves in financial straits. The News Media the world over had something to say about this; in the end it only focused bright lights on the town, with the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce taking the credit for a job well done.

On Saturday, April 23, 1977, at the Vegreville Composite High School, President Mac Vinet had the honour of being in the chair for the 70th Anniver-

sary for the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. It was an outstanding event and every Past President that was able, attended. To make this event a financial success there were 59 merchants of the Town that contributed financially. Greetings on this occasion came from the Town, Mayor Larry Rup-tash; from the Province, Hon. Neil Crawford, Minister of Labour; from Canada, Donald Mazankowski, M.P. Then there was President Elect of Alberta Chamber of Commerce, Howard Geier, and guest speaker Gordon R. Cameron, director of Environmental Programs Canadian Utilities.

In 1978 Frank Golinowsky, owner of Twin Lake Construction, was the president of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Golinowsky carries one of the highest distinctions, or honours that could be bestowed on a president. It was the year Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Vegreville. Mother nature also blessed this visit by providing us with a warm day of sunshine. Her Majesty unveiled a plaque on the Pysanka site to commemorate the visit.

Lloyd Bauer, a shareholder in the business of Tower Plumbing Ltd., is the President of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce for the year 1979, and due to the demise of P.M. Shavchuk on October 5th, 1979, Harry Chomik has taken over the duties of Secretary-Treasurer.

In making this write-up, thanks must go to all those on the Executive and all Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents that could be contacted, and the Vegreville Observer.

Chautauqua

by Michael Tomyn

Chautauqua was a touring form of entertainment that lasted approximately twenty years in Canada.

During World War I the show was first brought to our country by a man named J. M. Erickson. The travelling company consisted of talented artists, orators, musicians, magicians, singers, dancers, and actors.

Promoters would come to Vegreville weeks in advance to canvass the district, advertise the show, and get a guarantee of \$2,000 for a "sure bet". The show would go on for four to six days, with two performances a day, afternoon and evening. Sometimes after the show was over, the sponsors had to pay the deficit.

The writer remembers the Chautauqua visiting Vegreville in the summer of 1925. A man in charge of the performance hired a few of us boys to advertise the show after it had arrived in town. He gave us a dime apiece and cute-looking caps. We went up and down the streets, singing, "Who are, who are, who are we? Junior Chautauqua, can't you see!"



Chautauqua tent used for a week of entertainment in Vegreville, by first High School, 1924.

People from far and near came to the show, a type that has since been superseded by other forms of entertainment.

Many budding performers got their training and experience at this show during the summer and some went on to greater heights later.

The patrons loved the Hawaiian costume and music, the romantic and exciting plays, the novel puppet act, the magician's sleight-of-hand, the lecture on some timely and pressing topic, the charming and lively dances, and the crises that sometimes developed, like the blowing down of the tent during a storm.

Another crisis was the electric power going off. The reader must remember that this was the period of the local power plant, a very fickle one at times. History records that a certain town did have a power failure during the evening performance. But some resourceful fellows went out and brought back several bulrushes (cattails), soaked them in oil, and became the heroes of the show.

Chautauqua was a very important organization because it provided fine talent which the people of that time would not have seen nor heard. The event provided an opportunity to get away from everyday work and enjoy something extra and special.

1932 was Chautauqua's last summer in Canada. It would never again be part of our cultural life.

The economic depression and the radio had spelled its death knell.

Vegreville Public Library

(excerpted from the history compiled by Irene Shaw in 1973)

Vegreville Public Library had its origins in the concern of two local women from the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Mrs. A. H. Goodwin and Mrs. J. C. Butchart, who approached Town Council on November 4, 1920, announcing their intention to institute a library in the Public Rest Room, located in the Alberta Hotel. The first Library



The original Standard of Major Fane Chapter IODE, a gift of the first Honorary Regent, Mrs. F. W. W. Fane, was presented to the Vegreville Public Library in 1959. (l. to r.) — Mrs. G. H. Lowes, Mrs. C. W. King, Mrs. F. W. W. Fane — Regent, Mrs. J. C. Campbell, Mrs. A. W. Shaw, Mrs. C. G. Strong, Mrs. W. F. F. Shaw.

Board was then appointed: Dr. A. H. Goodwin (dentist), H. C. Clark (school principal), J. C. Butchart (school inspector), and Mayor Charles Gordon as chairman. Mrs. Goodwin and Mrs. Blackburn acted on the book committee.

Through the years the personnel of the Board changed frequently, but until 1970 the current mayor usually acted as chairman of the library board. Some of the illustrious Board members of earlier times were: Frank Russell (lawyer), Mrs. E. E. Morton (first woman appointee), Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hurlburt (lawyers), Mrs. Odell, A. W. Fraser, J. B. Holden, Owen Williams, Neil Primrose, A. Doucette, Wm. Hayhurst, C. T. Third. Mrs. A. W. (Marge) Shaw took over as first woman secretary following E. H. Wynn-Mackenzie and Jas. Fitzallen.

In the early years, the library was sponsored by the WCTU and the Women's Institute which raised money by teas, concerts, tag-days, etc., and also by soliciting financial help from both municipal and provincial governments; for example, in 1921-22, the Province granted \$170 and the Town gave \$200. It was a great forward step when in 1967 regular grants became available on a per capita basis from both above authorities.

First librarian was Mrs. Mabel Webb, a widow, who worked for nearly eighteen years at \$45 per month, acting also as janitor for the combined library and rest-room which was, in 1924, a small cottage located between Main Street and the CNR station. (This building was previously a Board of Trade office; later M.D. of Norma office; and finally, in 1950 was moved to the golf course where, remodelled, it



Vegreville Library personnel, 1973. Standing (l. to r.) — C. Barfett, R. Nikiforuk, Jean Kelly (librarian), B. Tierney.

Seated — B. Hantiuk, P. Pawliuk, V. Turner, M. Patterson, L. Cole. Picture was taken by W. S. Bushko — Board Chairman.

serves as clubhouse today.) Fees for library patrons were set in 1922 at \$1.00 for adults and 25¢ for children per year; they remained at that level until slightly escalated in 1978.

In depression time the library suffered and on May 1, 1938, the old premises was closed. Later that year, Major Fane Chapter, IODE, with approval from the Town, took over management of the library, with a new Board consisting of: Mesdames A. W. Shaw, A. Broadribb, W. T. Clements, Jas. McCrea, E. C. Miller, C. G. Strong. The opening tea on October 15, 1938, was convened by Mrs. Harold Kennedy. Thereafter, for ten years, the IODE raised money, obtained grants, and voluntarily manned the library, which was then situated in the basement of the Civic Building on 50th Avenue just west of the Post Office. In addition to those already mentioned, some active library workers of the period were: Mesdames W. F. Shaw, Couillard, Spence, McClure, Alexander, White, Cheesewright, McDonough, Taylor, C. T. Third, J. S. Reid, Clark, Cole, Cobble, Jennings, Kastner, Hicks, and Campbell. In 1947, with circulation increasing, Mrs. Cobble was hired as a regular librarian, followed by Bess Shaw, Joan Bowen, Vera Turner, Beulah Campbell, Mrs. J. C. Fairbairn, Pat Kuziek, and Jean Kelly, who continues as librarian today, assisted since 1978 by Marge Flechuk.

Meanwhile, the cramped, dingy quarters were deplored by local patrons and by the Provincial authorities, so in 1967 a Centennial drive for funds was started by the Board with Marg Nicholls, secretary, doing much of the spade work and publicity which resulted in the Jaycees spearheading the campaign, so that by September, 1970, over \$20,000 had been realized for the Library Building Fund. Invited by the Town to become part of its new Civic Complex, the Library Board agreed and thus in December, 1972, relocated in the south portion of the Town Administration Building on Main Street. That was a busy

period for the Board, with Chairperson Ruby Nikiforuk and secretary Betty Hantiuk and others working overtime (no pay) on the project. Help in the form of dollars, equipment, and volunteer labor came from nearly every organization and from many individuals in the community, who have a right to be proud of the fine facility and the material offered now to the reading public. The Town, realizing the value of such a cultural centre, has been most generous in its support. A Board of ten non-paid members appointed by Town Council is still active in steering the course of library affairs which has become big business with a circulation of about 3000 books per month.

Present Board for 1979: Rod Stewart, (chairman), Betty Hantiuk (secretary), Mike Tomin (treasurer), Helen Belcher, George Yuskow, Ruby Nikiforuk, Joan Henley, Joyce Ziegler, Josie Reidlinger, and Marion Bildfell.

Bank of Montreal

It was on September 9, 1905, when the community consisted of but a few buildings near the Vermilion River and when its population numbered only about fifty, that Vegreville's first bank, now the local office of the Bank of Montreal, was established in the Old Town of Vegreville. The first settlers had arrived here from Edmonton and Wetaskiwin about 1901 and Vegreville was still in its pioneer stage. The business section consisted of two general stores, Clements & Sons' and E. L. Poulin's, the implement agency of the Robertson Bros. (George and Ed), a post office and a barber shop, when the bank was established.

On the face of it, there was apparently little need for a bank, but the old Merchants Bank, later amalgamated with the Bank of Montreal, anticipated the growth of the town that would follow the arrival of the Canadian Northern Railway, then under construction from Winnipeg, and their foresight was proven correct in the following years. The site of the railway had already been surveyed passing slightly northeast of the Old Town, so, following the sale of lots to the pioneers and the pioneer firms, the settlers, with the aid of contractors, moved their houses, lock, stock and barrel, on rollers and skids — with no fences or roads to hinder them — and established Vegreville in its present location. This was three miles east and three miles north of Hans Mayer's place, which formed part of the old townsite.

In the mass trek, the bank was among the first to reach the new town, and C. R. Morton, the first manager, set up office on the corner of Main and 1st, but it is only fair to mention that the Canadian Bank of Commerce ran them a close race, the Merchants winning by a nose.



Old Vegreville, about 1902.



Bank of Montreal staff, about 1965. Accountant Herb Erickson — extreme right.

Town Well Advanced

Vegreville's subsequent growth was rapid, and the population increased from a scant fifty to its present figure of more than 4100, in a district of close to 50,000, an achievement that very few localities in Canada can claim.

Today, Vegreville is a prosperous agricultural community surrounded by rich mixed-farming lands, and it has, besides its stores, churches, public and high schools, the best of rail connections and elevators with a capacity of many thousands of bushels.

The apparent progress of the town at that time made it necessary for rebuilding of the bank office. The first quarters were abandoned and the first specially constructed banking office was erected on the same corner — a two-storey brick structure with staff quarters.

Bank of Montreal 50 Years in Vegreville

Vegreville Observer, 50th Anniversary Issue

"It was September 9, 1905, that the Merchants Bank of Canada, part of the Bank of Montreal since 1922, opened for business in Old Vegreville in a one-and-a-half storey frame building.

Mr. Cram R. Morton together with Mr. Fred Pike drove from Edmonton in a buggy a few days before,



Merchants' Bank — 1905 — moved from Old Vegreville. Site is present Toronto-Dominion Bank. White-collared bank employees are (l. to r.) Fred Pike — bank clerk, Cram Morton — manager, George C. Grant — bank clerk. Back building is Frank Morrison's blacksmith shop.

following the usual trail around hills and sloughs. Pike stayed overnight at Ezra Leach's place with the Bank's money before proceeding to the hamlet. Cram Morton, uncle of Mayor Bill Morton, died a few years ago. He was the first president of the Vegreville Board of Trade. Fred Pike, retired, is still enjoying life at the Coast.

It was not long after the opening that the exodus to the new townsite of Vegreville began and in November of 1905 the Bank was moved on skids; lock, stock and ledger-books to the corner lot where H. S. Hurlburt's law office now is. The moving

started after 3 o'clock P.M. and next day the Bank was re-opened for business in the new town, just beating out the opening of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

The need for larger and better premises soon became apparent and the old frame building was moved to where Louis Knies' implement shop is now. The building was bought by Mar Dom, a fine old Chinaman, who did the community's laundry. Both the building and Mar Dom have since removed from worldly affairs.

A substantial two-storey red brick building was

erected in 1906 and made with brick made by one of the two brickyards then operating in Vegreville, Cameron's Brickyard. The brickyards ceased operations years ago. Mr. Hurburt now holds forth in the red brick building. In 1938 the Canadian Bank of Commerce closed out and the Bank of Montreal purchased the building, moved across the street where it does business today. The banking room was completely modernized and renovated in the spring of 1954 making it an attractive, modern banking office.

The Bank started with a staff of two and now has sixteen. A long succession of public-spirited and efficient Managers have occupied the manager's chair since Cram Morton, who was followed by F. M. Hacking. The latter's successor, A. S. Maxwell, was president of the Board of Trade in 1910. It was during his term of office that the Board was very active in attracting settlers and homesteaders to Vegreville. He was succeeded by M. S. Johnston who was followed by R. D. Hinton.

Many people will remember M. W. Bond, at present Manager at Leduc, who filled the Managership here well from 1933 until 1943. He was followed by genial, W. H. Beacom, now retired on pension since 1950, but who found retirement irksome and is now working in the Bank at Victoria, B.C. The present Manager R. S. Boddy, followed Mr. Beacom.

Some of the first customers of the Bank are still customers, including ye old editor, Mr. Horton."

List of Managers:

C. R. Morton — 1905 to . First president of Board of Trade chartered 28th May, 1906. Uncle of our popular Mayor, Mr. E. F. (Bill) Morton.

F. M. Hacking.

A. S. Maxwell — 1909-1915. Board of Trade re-organized in 1910 with Mr. Maxwell as President and apparently the Board was very active in enticing settlers and homesteaders during his term.

M. S. Johnson —

R. D. Hinton — to 1933.

W. M. Bond — 1933-1943. A popular Manager, taking an active part in community affairs. Was President of the Board of Trade.

W. H. Beacom — 1943-1950. Popular Manager also active in community affairs, who retired in 1950. Was President of the Board of Trade.

R. S. Boddy — 1950-1961.

J. Richmond — 1961-1967.

A. Green — 1967-1968.

W. Slipp — 1968-1973.

R. A. Barr — 1973-1976.

S. Falebrenza — 1976 to present time.

The Girls' Home

by Feen (Boychuk) Fleming

The Girls' Home, situated in the S.E. part of Vegreville, provided a residence for children from broken homes and farm homes, to give them the opportunity of attending a town school with higher grades and presumably better facilities.

The Home was really a mission home, operated by the Presbyterian Church.

The Girls' Home was later the residence of E. Clements and the Boys' Home, located west across the back lane, is the present home of Mrs. P. Nestoruk. (The last-mentioned home has lost the two upper storeys.)

The Home kept some livestock and poultry and had a big garden, all to provide food for the students and staff. The matron was in charge. Religion was a key subject. Every Sunday we attended services at the Presbyterian Church. The Boys' Home had a similar set of guidelines.

Here is how the home was laid out. In the basement were a coal and wood furnace, coal bin, storage room for canned goods, cold storage room, toilet, wash sinks, long bench with enamel wash basins, and nails on wooden pillars for towels and face cloths. The main floor had a big kitchen with a coal stove, a tin-topped table, few windows, two sinks, pots and pans, and a pantry for dishes. In the dining room were two long tables for the students and a small table at one end for the matron. To the right of the dining room was a study, with a rug and a piano — used only on special occasions. To the left of the dining room was a hall where coats were hung; the hallway led to the matron's suite with its living room and bathroom. The suite was well furnished. From



Boys — in the Boys' Home — 1930's.

the hall were stairs leading to a private bedroom for guests of the matron, or parents or missionaries. The upstairs had two sleeping dorms, one for the older girls and one for the little ones. The dorms had lockers for clothes. The small bathroom was used primarily for week-end baths. Above the second storey was the attic.

Here is a sample of a regular day: The bell rung by the matron at 6:30 A.M. would wake us up. With gusto we had to wash, dress and hurry downstairs to do chores — setting the table, preparing breakfast, peeling potatoes and getting food ready for the noon meal. By the table we sat on benches, each assigned to a definite spot. After grace was said, we would have rolled oats with milk but no sugar. Then we could have bread, butter, jam, and cocoa — just so much. After the meal there would be a reading from the Bible, followed by singing a hymn and saying grace. Breakfast would be over at 7:00 to 7:30 A.M.

After breakfast would come the washing of the dishes, sweeping, dusting, making beds, and using the washroom.

The small school close by had no washroom facilities. It was a small building with a pot-bellied stove; on top was a pot for water (or snow) to provide humidification.

The noon meal was a big one — carrots, turnips, parsnips, potatoes, meat-like pork, sausage or fish, dessert-like rice or bread pudding, or custard. The above menu was not for one meal but was varied from day to day. After dinner, dishes would have to be washed and put away. Then back to school for the afternoon.



Left to right: Eunice, Jim and Feen Boychuk, early 1930's.

After school there was time for play, until time to get supper ready. For supper, some of the food left over from noon would be served, plus two slices of bread, butter, bowl of fruit or jello, and milk. After supper would come hymn-singing and Bible stories.

Chores were assigned on a weekly basis. On Saturday we could sleep in later. But Saturday was a cleaning day. We had to scrub floors, beat rugs outside, and get food ready for Sunday.

Sunday was a quiet day: Breakfast was followed by Sunday school at the little school house close by, for the little girls, while the bigger ones attended the Presbyterian Church closer to mid-town. In summer the afternoons were spent going for walks. After supper, church again and then bed. In winter, Sunday afternoons were set aside for learning catechism. Some Sundays we had a mission band, an entertaining element for most of us.

At Christmas, some of the girls went home to their parents or relatives, while others remained in the home. The same was true for Easter. During the summer holidays many of the children went home (someplace).

When the girls were bigger, they were sent to the public school in town. They acquired other friends and experienced more freedom. In public school were teachers as follows: Mr. J. McCrea — Principal, Miss O'Dell, Miss Stewart, Miss Dinwoodie, Miss Hackett, Miss Patterson and Miss Wright. Miss Black came to the school to check up on health.

The Girls' Home operated close to thirty years. It served the children who required the assistance described above.

Editor's note: The Home served a very useful function during those times, and although some children felt the going was rough at times, the institution catered to the needs of the children as it saw fit.

The Presbyterian Girls' and Boys' Homes by Heathy Stewart Challenger

The Women's Missionary Society was not only concerned with the health of the settlers but saw a real need for the children to have an opportunity to obtain a basic education. Under the capable management of Dr. G. Arthur, one Boys' Home was started in the fall of 1910. Miss Flora Stewart of Pipestone, Man. became the first matron with twelve boys under her care.

In the meantime the Alberta Government had granted \$30,000 to erect a seminary — "The School for Foreigners" as it was called, for young men over sixteen. The intention being to fit them for entrance to Normal School, as many had their High School education in the Old Countries. The school was built on Main Street, north of the tracks, with Mr. Stickle

as principal. He later became principal of Camrose Normal School.

In 1912 R. M. Boswell of Elora, Ont. built a large two-storey, square home, one block west of the R.M.B. Hospital and loaned it to the W.M.S. for use as a Boys' Home. Miss Stewart became matron of the Boswell Home and Miss Agnes McKee of the yellow cottage home. By the end of 1914 there were four homes accommodating 48 children, 14 girls and 34 boys, who all attended the village school. Miss Johnson was matron of the Girls' Home a block north of the R.M.B. Hospital. A third boys' home was built north of Miss McKee's and Miss Wendell was matron.

A small school was erected in this same block where Rev. Zalizniak, the Presbyterian Missionary to the Ukrainians, taught four nights a week. He instructed in religion, taught them to read and write in their own language, and songs and hymns in both languages.

Church was compulsory; Sunday mornings at the Presbyterian Church in the village, — afternoon, Sunday School, then in the evening a service in the mission school with Rev. Zalizniak. In the meantime you had three meals, did the necessary Sunday chores and studied so many Bible verses. A day of rest? I often wondered!

I quote from the General Assembly minutes of 1914:

"The Educational Committee regrets the resignation of Dr. Arthur. It was he who originated the present plan of placing foreign children under the care of Christian Canadian women in small homes and in this way try to make them good Canadian boys and girls."

He saw his dream fulfilled as many of those students became teachers, nurses, doctors or successful businessmen and farmers. No doubt there was the odd failure.

In 1920 a large three-storey Girls' Home was built a block south of the Boswell Home to be followed by a large Boys' Home on the west of the same block. The old homes were sold and Mr. Boswell thanked for the use of his building. The school and store houses were moved, thus consolidating all the buildings in the same block.

Miss Stewart retired in the fall of 1922 after eleven years of dedicated service, followed by Miss Wendell the next year. Rev. G. R. Lang, the superintendent, and Mrs. Lang moved into the Boys' Home and with Miss Barbara Gallagher's help operated the home for a few years. Miss McKee was matron of the Girls' Home when Miss Johnson retired to return to her beloved Nova Scotia. Mr. and Mrs. Earl, I be-

lieve, were the last in charge as the homes were gradually phased out in the late thirties.

These matrons had their rewards in the many messages they received from former pupils, which told of impressions that can never be forgotten. Steve Tomashavsky said of Miss Stewart, "She was a strict disciplinarian but kind, broad-minded and understanding. She was like a mother to us all. I'm sure the same was said of all the matrons."

It took real administrative ability to keep every one at work and happy. The children had all the chores to do — saw the wood, younger ones had to keep the wood boxes filled, feed and milk the cow, wash the dishes, carry the water in and out, sweep and scrub floors and make their own beds. The older ones had to take turns washing the clothes. It was a case of learning on the job. Many scraps had to be settled whether physical or verbal. English was to be spoken at all times.

As Miss Stewart's niece, may I add a few personal remarks. I spent four years at the Boswell Home under the same discipline as the boys. For a couple of years my sister was there too, until Ideal School was built. We went home for weekends, weather permitting. We had our cots in Aunt Flora's large bedroom and I was responsible for the care of that room. It was cosy as we had a wood-burning stove in the room. Wood lugged up and ashes down but it was worth it in comfort.

By Aunt Flora's kindness and with permission of the W.M.S. I was able to complete my High School and go to Normal in 1920. Many times during my lifetime I have been grateful to them for the opportunity they granted me.

The year I wrote Grade VIII Departmental Examinations there were eight of us. We sat around the dining room table each evening to do homework while Aunt Flora sat nearby with her never-ending pile of socks to darn. She dictated spelling, heard memory work and kept our noses to the grindstone. We all passed with above average marks under our capable, dedicated teacher, Miss Ada I. Wright.

All the older boys had to do to get Aunt Flora riled up was mention Darwin's Theory of Evolution. She was a firm believer in the Book of Genesis.

The Homes had served their purpose. By the Thirties, country schools were well established throughout the province and High Schools were in all villages so there was no further need for the mission homes in this area.

Vegreville Brick Plant 1908-1914

by Michael Tomy

As is common to all towns, some buildings, businesses and industries disappear, while others.

come into existence. One factory that has disappeared from the Vegreville scene is the Brick Plant.

With the initial boom years after 1905 came the urgency to build suitable premises. The Vegreville Brick Plant provided the building material required for stable structures.

The brick plant, started in 1908, was located on the grounds of the present campsite by the Elks' Pond. Clay from the area provided the raw material. With the beginning of World War I, people were needed at the war front, so the plant had to shut down because of lack of manpower. Also, better-quality Brick Plant provided the building material required market.

Buildings which are constructed of Vegreville brick and which still stand are: The Legion Building, St. Martin's School, Alberta Hotel, and several houses.

After the plant fell into disuse, the local boys used the kilns for having fun. They would sit on the little rail carts, originally used for holding brick, and propel themselves along the rails through the kilns, using hands against the kiln walls for motive power. In some places the kiln walls had crumbled, and

excitement reigned supreme as the youngsters emerged from darkness into light, and vice versa.

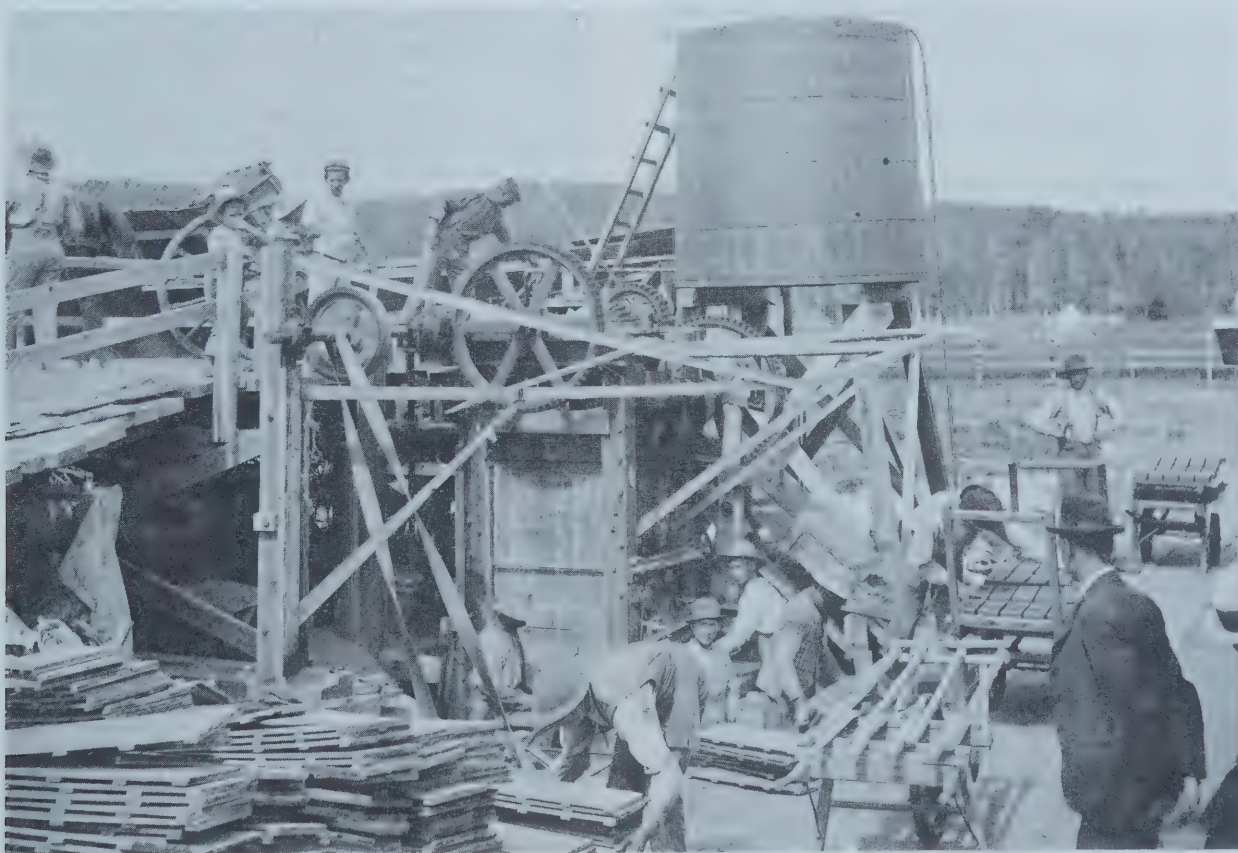
The excavation where the clay was obtained was used as a garbage disposal site in the early 1950's. Brick fragments can still be spotted in different sections of the camp area. The big concrete block that provided a base for the huge engine was a reminder of the plant for a long time, until it was removed when the Elks' Pond picnic area was developed.

So ends another story about another landmark. Only the buildings made of Vegreville brick remind us of a factory that once catered to local needs.

Shield Manufacturing Ltd.

by George Nestman

Shield Manufacturing Ltd. is a company that started out as a partnership in the early spring of 1951. The idea for this company came from George Nestman who lived in Vermilion. He was employed by the firm of Macleod Limited as salesman, to sell their Homeguard Insulation and to see that it was installed in the buildings. This entailed the hiring of trucks and men and supervising the work. In 1950 Mr. Nestman was accredited with the highest insula-



Brick factory, about 1911. Inscription on Plaque — Manufactured by the Henry Martin Brick Machine Mfg. Co. Lance Steel, Pa.

tion sales for the entire organization for MacLeod Limited. He owned two trucks that were used to deliver and install the insulation. Owning this equipment and being the highest salesman was partially the reason why Mr. Nestman wanted to manufacture the insulation and be a greater shareholder of the business. He was quite sure he could manufacture a product that looked like and could produce the same results as Homeguard Insulation. One thing that had to be considered in the manufacturing of this kind of insulation, was the availability of the raw material. The raw material in this case was used and discarded newspaper, preferably the pulp, not the slick paper. This meant locating in a town that used natural gas and did not use wood or coal for heating and cooking, and therefore would not burn the newspapers. Vegreville was chosen by Mr. Nestman for two main reasons: first, it was a growing town and therefore had a future. (The least insulation sales had been made there, so the assumption was there would be lots of buildings to insulate); second, the raw material could be obtained from Edmonton and, in turn, Edmonton was not too far to market or wholesale the finished product. There was another factor: Nestman needed more money than he had and Vegreville had the partner who wanted to go into this venture of manufacturing insulation. This partner was the man who worked in the Court House, Sheriff Harry Sakaluk. These two got to know each other since Nestman was the Sheriff's Bailiff and worked out of Vermilion.

Nestman and Sakaluk consented to establishing in Vegreville. Neither one of these two ever worked in any kind of a manufacturing concern. Now they were faced with finding a place to get started. They found a garage on the north side of the track and after two days of trying to set up the machine that was to pulverize the paper, they found that this place was not accessible to three-phase electricity. The next move was the negotiation to buy a building with a 50 H.P.

diesel motor and 12-inch grain grinder, which at the time was used as a chop mill. This building was located north of the track, north of 53 Avenue and west of 49 Street. An agreement was struck up with the two owners of this building, that part of the building could be used to set up the manufacturing business and, when \$2,000.00 was handed over to them, they would vacate, and the new owners could pay the balance owing in monthly payments.

At this point Nestman and Sakaluk were not only faced with what to call this new company but what appropriate name to call the product they were about to manufacture, also not forgetting they were short of capital. Nestman owned farm land but land was not selling and the banks were not in the mortgage business. Nestman was the mechanic genius; he set up the pulverizing machine and the chemical dispenser, but could not figure out how to separate the air from the manufactured product. The elimination of the air was finally overcome in about three weeks by the trial and error method. Sakaluk, who still held down his job as Sheriff, did all he could after hours and even working during his noon-hour break.

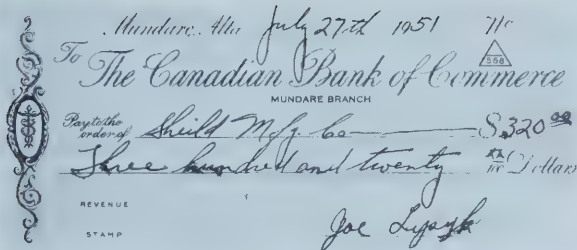
One noon hour when Nestman walked into the Court House with an armful of names for this new manufacturing firm, the whole staff of the Court House was all ears. Names were proposed in earnest and Sakaluk stood there with pen and ink in hand. Those were the days when ink came in a bottle and was used with a pen nib, and Sakaluk was the best pen-man in the Town of Vegreville. Sakaluk asked for a word that would be similar or have the same meaning as the word, "Guard". A girl, of the Court House staff, said, "Shield". Immediately the outline of a shield was drawn on the paper, with the word "Shield" across it. Then Sakaluk said, "There, there is a meaning in the word "Shield" and we will shield the homes and we will call the company, 'Shield Manufacturing'."

So within a few days Shield Manufacturing Company opened for business. They hired one of the former owners to operate the chopmill end of it. It was the longest day of the year, June 21, 1951. Within a few days after opening, the Vegreville Flour Mill, owned by Mr. Brown, caught on fire to Mr. Brown's loss, but a business thrown into the lap of Shield Manufacturing Company. Besides the flour mill, the feedmill business also went up in smoke, leaving Shield Manufacturing the only place to grind grain.

At this point there were people that wanted to buy the chop mill, offering \$4,000.00 more than Nestman and Sakaluk bargained to pay for it. Had Nestman not made up receipts in duplicate and got the former owners to sign for the \$50.00 deposit that was



Shield Manufacturing, 1954 — the exterior of the raised walls and roof completed.



Payment for first insulation job by (Nestman) Shield Manufacturing, 1951.

made by Nestman, Shield Manufacturing would have been out on the street.

The photocopy of the cheque verifies the first insulation sale. The insulation business moved steadily ahead; insulation was sold and installed in such places as the School Division of Smoky Lake, by having all their old buildings insulated. C.N.R. had the section men's houses and some of their stations insulated. There were lots of old houses insulated that were privately owned, in such places as Vermilion, Lloydminster, Chauvin, Edgerton, Wainwright, Czar, Loughheed, Viking, Holden, Ryley, to mention just a few. The new houses that were built without the financial aid of National Mortgage and Housing Co., could be contacted and in many cases contracted to be insulated.

Mr. Sakaluk tried in various ways to break the barrier that stopped Shield Manufacturing Company from insulating the houses built or financed by National Mortgage and Housing. The terminal conductivity of 4 inches of Shield Insulation and 22 inches of shavings were equal, but the National Housing preferred 2 inches of batt insulation in the walls and 4 inches of shavings in the attic. They refused to recommend Shield Insulation because it was not fire-proof. Sakaluk was very well-versed on the words "fire-proof" and could convince anyone that there was no insulation on the market that was fire-proof.

Nestman contacted a man in Edmonton who was going to sell the insulation to the oilwell drillers, to stop lost circulation when drilling wells. This ended up by having 1,000 bags made up, without the use of the fire or rodent chemical, and keeping it in storage for over a year, and it never was sold or called for. In the fall of 1953 Nestman bought out Sakaluk and formed a limited company, namely Shield Manufacturing Ltd., the shares to be owned by Mr. and Mrs. Nestman. George Nestman got married in February, 1955, and Mrs. Nestman took over the role of secretary of the company.

The new company made drastic changes in the feedmill business, by completely changing and re-

building the chop mill. A new building was built to house the manufacturing of the insulation.

The insulation business now became number two of the business until the fall of 1963 when Shield Manufacturing Ltd. purchased 20 acres of land, Pt. N.W. ¼ 19-52-14-W4, and went into the feedlot business, consisting of buying cattle and finishing them for the slaughter market. The target was to be in numbers above the 500 mark at all times in the feedlot. The highest number ever reached was 730 head. There was room for expansion in the feedlot business, and brought the insulation business to a standstill. Due to the price fluctuation the feedlot business in the winter of 1968 suffered a loss of \$11,000.00. Due to this loss the feedlot business was discontinued.

This brought back the insulation business once again, but on June 21, 1971, just 20 years from the day of the official opening, a fire destroyed all the buildings and contents. This fire spelled the demise of Shield Manufacturing Ltd.

Diaper Avenue Days by Betty Hantiuk

It began with the impending return of WW II veterans. Canadians would soon rejoice in the homecoming of many of their service men and women. Where would these young people and their dependents find places to work and live? Nobody wanted a repetition of the post - WW I problems of maladjustment and neglect of veterans. In anticipation the Canadian government set up several Rehabilitation Programs under the Department of Veterans' Affairs. In this district C. J. A. "Jack" Beswick did the spade work to help get returned men settled on farms and in other occupations.

To provide the necessary housing for these young fellows, many of whom were already married, a plot of land Block Z was purchased in the "wilds" of Vegreville — about ten acres of unsightly clay, formerly Bill Pidruchney's oat-field, edged with thistles and swamp willow. The half-acre lots were laid out



A sampling of the Diaper Avenue kids, in 1955, looking north towards the newly-planted shrubbery and Collins' big swing.

lengthwise with each sixty-foot frontage facing the muddy road then known as Hospital Avenue. That name was soon changed to a more appropriate title, as the boys who purchased lots brought wives and kids or soon acquired both and shortly filled the DVA acreage so prolifically that it was dubbed "Diaper Avenue".

Look back about thirty years to the north side of 54A Ave. and you will see why that nickname was so apt. Day after day, row upon row of white flannelette squares waved gaily on the long clothes-lines extending behind each DVA house — there were no dryers or "pampers" then, but there was a baby boom. At first, the dozens of toddlers ran wild over the raw, unfenced yards with harassed young mothers tracking them through the mud. One clever mom avoided this problem with the use of a police whistle and a code which warned her youngsters when to come home. Nearest to town, Charlie and Nellie Dumont with little Patsy and Terry built one of the first of the neat little DVA bungalows. Next door were Russell and Ruby Nikiforuk with Jimmy and Ronnie in their peak-roofed variation; then came Harry and Alice Sakaluk with Tommy, Leiney and Jimmy (Laurie came later) in another of the "box" houses. Continuing eastward, there were Ralph and Peggy Hayter and their tow-headed family of boys; Stuart and Bernice Ferguson with Gerald and Darlene; Cec and Kathleen Mills and their handsome half-dozen; Terry and Ann Soldan with Dougie and later Debbie; Mike and Jean Craddock with Rickie, Barry and Linda; Cliff and Kay King with Sheelagh, Craig and Brent; Jack and Ruby Beswick whose big girls, Louise and

Phyllis, were the local baby-sitters — the sons Graham and Warren were "after-thoughts"; Art and Edna Collins, with Greg and Margaret, and later Neil and Donna; and lastly, John and Betty Hantiuk with Bonnie and their new twins Margaret and Maureen — three sons to come.

Commotion, confusion and friendly rivalry reigned on Diaper Avenue as building went on apace; determination and desperation drove the young couples to accomplish miracles in finishing their economy-model houses, for expert help and material were almost non-existent in those post-war years. Nevertheless, the lots were gradually serviced. How one appreciated running water after carrying it from a neighbor's place all winter! The swamp was filled in, and front lawns sprouted, only to be beaten down by the tribes of wee cowboys and Indians. Soon, with the combined efforts of mamas and papas and kids, the rough acreage became a veritable Garden of Eden with landscaped yards, lush gardens and hundreds of trees flourishing. There was a favored football field behind Soldans; a playground with huge slide and swing behind Collins; and a giant sandbox and playhouse at Hantiuks'. The bigger boys (Sakaluks and Craddocks) entertained the neighborhood on summer evenings with their attempts at hard rock — not great music, but loud! It was a grand place to raise kids.

Meanwhile, the young fathers marched off to work, for not one at that time owned a family car. None of the mothers worked out then, but all kept busy with babies and housework, comparing ideas on drapes and diaper-rash over coffee klatches or evening bridge. They celebrated the arrival of a sidewalk by parading up and down with baby-filled carriages, while the toddlers sped joyously by on their tricycles, some of them so well-used that they squeaked at every joint. As more lots filled in nearby and across the avenue, adding such families as Dowhaniuks, Kuzyks, Stantons, Pawliuks and Sokoluks, the kid count increased; one unofficial census numbered a hundred children in the area!

Fortunately, the feared post-war economic recession never materialized and the veterans thrived. Today most of the original families have moved on to greener pastures in town or in other parts; the back lots have also been built up with modern residences. All the neat little DVA bungalows remain in good shape, but the baby boom is over, and few clothes-lines remain where diapers once aired. The Service men and their wives are near retirement now, but they can be proud of their progeny who, now scattered in various jobs and professions all over the world, got their start on Diaper Avenue in Vegreville.



Diaper Avenue in 1946; Charlie Dumont and Johnny Hantiuk, two of the "permanent" residents, heading west to do some landscaping. In the background are some of the newly-built DVA homes: Dumont's, Nikiforuk's, and Sakaluk's. Note: no sidewalk, no pavement.

Lavoy and District

by Michael H. Tomy

The Village of Lavoy, incorporated in 1906, has a population of 115. It is situated about 75 miles (120 km.) east of Edmonton on the Canadian National (originally Northern) Railway and Highway No. 16. It was named after Joseph (Joe) Lavoie who homesteaded on SW4-52-13-W4, the present location of the village. "Lavoy" is the Anglicized version of his name. Mr. Lavoie's house, built on the hill on five acres of land, south of the present school, was the first house in Lavoy. Mr. Lavoie lived in the village till 1910. Steve Predyk owned the house in the 1940's. Harry Haluschak tore it down and built a home with some of the salvaged lumber, on the lot south of Mrs. Paul Semeniuk's place. Finally that house landed on Mrs. J. Orfino's farm.

The earliest settlers came about the turn of the century, about five or six years before the railway was built in 1905. The station was built in 1906, a year after the track was laid. The first village council consisted of D. C. McGregor, H. B. Hughes, and A. Eaton, with Secretary-Treasurer G. Walz.

The Dinwoodies, a Scottish family, ran the first post office and store on Sickman Hill (south of Sickman or Akasu Lake) — SW15-52-13-W4. (Richard Dinwoodie Sr. died accidentally in 1906 and was buried on Sickman Hill). The Dinwoodie post office operated for three years, 1903-1906. It was then moved approximately three miles south to the Village of Lavoy. The first post office in the village was a red tin building, situated where the late Mike Mazar lived. George Walz was the successor to R. Dinwoodie when the post office changed location. Postmasters who may be labelled old-timers were Dinwoodie, Walz, Albert George, Dowdel, Voss, Bigham, Sandford, Duffy, Hughes, Dr. Arthur, Hoggins and Kott. The present postmistress is Mrs. Mary Slywchuk.

The telephone central office was installed in the post office in 1920.

The first and only hotel, called "Palmer House", with its forty rooms, was built by Joe Lavoie in 1905 (on his quarter-section, of course). The hotel has changed hands many times. Operators through the years were Ed. Cyre (1905-1907), Butler and French (1907-10), Hetu and Umbach (1910-12), Mike McParland (1912-44), P. Yacie, John Laschuk, and A. McCormick. About twenty-five years ago the top (third) storey was taken down by carpenter John Matwiw. John Laschuk was the owner then and he renovated the hotel extensively and operated it until recently.

The first school was opened in 1907, upstairs in an old brick building, a store and investment office. The first teacher was Miss A. Clarke. The brick

building was located close to McNeil's store (one-half block west of Bricker's Store). It was built by Graham, later bought by Murray. An ominous crack appeared in the brick wall, and, after a few months of operation, the school was condemned by the Department of Education. The building was demolished in 1920. (For a brick building, it didn't last so long. The home owned by Mike Kariam and later by Mike Sydora was built on the site.) In 1908, a year after the first school was closed, T. J. Duffy built a two-room brick block school. Teachers were H. Gillespell and Miss A. Rogers. The structure burned down in 1919. A new, two-room frame school was constructed in 1920. When classrooms were crowded, other facilities were often used. At one time classes were held in a room in the Church and in 1929-30 Eva Little taught grades one and two in the Community Hall. In 1946 a new one-room high school was built west of the cottage school (location was across the road from Lavoie's first house). In the mid-50's and early 60's the present school with its many classrooms, gymnasium, etc. was erected in piece-meal style. Two principals who served the longest in Lavoy School were Michael H. Tomy and George Spak. Some of the other teachers were A. Warren, Miss Cormick, Miss Taylor (Umbach), V. Hughes, B. Thompson, Miss Bell, Miss Donald (McCutcheon), Miss Jessie Arthur (Tweedale), Miss Gourlay, Miss G. Burkholder (Doherty), Eva Little (Johnson), Miss English (Baldwin), A. Wilson, Anne Lopatka, J. Milner, L. McLay, Miss Samoil (Chilibeck), P. Maciborski, Mr. Esopenko, Miss Ergezinger, S. Uniat, Mrs. C. Nawrot, Mrs. P. Brinton, M. Petruk, G. Cucheran, J. Stokal, N. Zakordonski, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. James, Anna Tomy (Wesley), R. Horon, L. Humeniuk, Mrs. Kostash, Mrs. Suddaby, J. D. Walsh, J. Weaver (Walz), H. Yaseyko, R. Freeman, G. Peers, G. Peers, Hougland, Fell, E. McDonald, R. Ellehill.

One of the first stores in Lavoy was built and operated by H. B. Hughes; the building is presently owned by A. Dowhey. Mr. Hughes was a hardware merchant, farmer, I.H.C. implement dealer, and White Rose Bulk Oil dealer. Owners of the store, in succession, were H. B. Hughes, Ferguson, Spence Hughes and Patterson, Klimoff, Tunis, Mazar and Dowhey, and A. Dowhey.

Another store, a block north and on the opposite side, was built by A. H. George who operated it from 1909 to 1911. Later owners, in succession, were T. J. Duffy (1911-15), Voss (1915-16), Olyan and Bricker (1916 to about 1955). Mr. Olyan had left the partnership some years earlier.

The Hayward Lumber Company was operated by N. J. Mitchell.

A store that appeared about the same time was

No.

Lavoy, Alta.

192

11
1058

The Royal Bank of Canada

LAVOY BRANCH



Pay to

or bearer

100 Dollars



Blank cheque of Royal Bank of Canada, Lavoy, 1920's.

Mike McNeil's, just north of the then-existing post office and close to the brick store. The building was later moved to the farm one and one-half miles south-east of Lavoy, the place later owned by David Dinwoodie and son Deimar. About 1921 Mike McNeil was killed by the train as he was walking down the railroad tracks.

The first garage in Lavoy was built by J. H. Tuck. It is still in use, located just south of the highway, and operated as a mini-service-station by the present owner, Steve Kereluik of Vegreville. Mr. Tuck also operated the first electric plant, located where the County Shop now stands.

The first bank, The Royal Bank of Canada, built in 1908 as a lumber office, operated for over two decades. The place was a small building on the lumber yard, just north of present-day Dowhey Store. Later the building was moved across the street to the west side, and is presently owned by Mike Sydora wherein he plies his grocery and confectionery trade. The bank moved to the ladies' beer lounge in the hotel where it finally ceased to operate about 45 years ago. (One can invent many reasons why the bank operated from the beer parlor.) The bank employees were Wilson (first manager), Mackie, Halton, H. Bugar, Mae Tuck (Bugar), Patterson, Hughes, Johnson and Nairn. More recently there has been a Treasury Branch.

Early Lavoy churches occupied changing locations. The first church to hold regular services was the Anglican in 1905. After holding church services in the school for over ten years, the Anglicans built their church in 1917. It was renovated about thirty years ago by Paul Semeniuk for his residence. The pews and stained glass Memorial Window were

taken to Edmonton. The first Baptist Church, built in 1907 just west of the former Bill Sikal house, by the tall evergreens, was torn down about twenty-five years ago. The United Church, built in 1927 just north-east of the Community Hall, was bought by the Baptists about twenty-five years ago. The Ukrainian Catholics acquired their church in 1953. The building was the former two-room Kolomea School of Royal Park, which was closed in 1951, and later moved and remodelled into a house of worship.

The community hall was built in 1926 and is still providing good service to the area. Shares were sold to provide the necessary funds. It was extended about thirty years ago and the kitchen-dining area was added in 1967 as a centennial project.

The fine two-sheet curling rink was built in 1938 by popular subscription and voluntary labor. It has been updated several times.

The first skating rink (mid-twenties) was located where the Post Office and Mike Sydora's Store now are standing.

There was a tennis court in the lawn area by the railroad station and later by the Community Hall.

The Lavoy district has rich soil suitable for farming. Therefore five elevators, all with one or two annexes, were needed to handle the volume of grain.

George Hubbard purchased the livery barn from Fred Pass (east of Dowhey's store where the Laschuks had a garden), and also operated the dray business until William Purdue took it over in 1917. St. Peter brothers and I. Sinclair also ran livery barns; so did David Danyluk in the 1920's. The St. Peter livery barn stood where H. Ford's residence is today; no doubt it was the first one in the village. Later this barn was moved to the Duffy farm (Wolinski's place).



A group of old Lavoyites, 1968. Back row (l. to r.) — Jim Fahy, Steve Makarowski, Alex Wasylciw, Mrs. Frank (Millie) Fane, unknown, John Tuck, Bill Yaremcio. Front row (l. to r.) — John Semeniuk, Mrs. John Semeniuk, Mrs. Mida Dinwoodie, Mrs. Kittle, Mrs. Durie, Mrs. John Tuck, Simon Place.



All Purdues, 1918. Back: Florence and Raymond. Front: Bruce and Dorothy.

The Sinclair livery stable stood where Central Garage was located later; the barn was removed by Art Fahy in 1926.

Some early settlers — (1900-02) — Dinwoodie family, Mrs. E. H. Morris, W. Fedyna, S. Swihun, C. Hubbard, K. Duk, W. McCutcheon, J. Cymbaluk, J. Juba, S. Pauk, G. Wakaluk, R. D. Samoil, Mrs. Miller, F. Sokalski, C. Sokalski, S. Krysak. (1903-05) — S. Briggs, J. Fahy, H. Suddaby, A. Woloshyn, G. Withers, W. Wilson, Mrs. Wm. Sandford, (1906-10) — C. McGregor, Mrs. V. Brymer, J. Sen, L. Moore, C. Rattray. (1911-15) — C. Carlson, W. Pomeroy, C. Bonisteel, J. Armitage, J. and F. Tuck.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rattray, Sr. came from Scotland and were employed by Hugh Doherty, west of Ranfurly, until World War I. Later they moved into the house just north of the Lavoy School; the place had been vacated by the Ernest Ackerman family (present place of Edward and Dorothy Sanford).

In 1916 Tom and Margaret Burkholder moved into the district, renting a farm one-half mile north of the village. In 1918 they bought raw land from Joe Harrick, two miles east of Lavoy. Price of land was ten dollars an acre. The Burkholders had four children: Gladys, Iola, Stanley and Tom Jr. Gladys be-

came a teacher, taught at Lavoy, and married Harvey J. Doherty.

Mrs. Burkholder's parents, James and Rebecca Suddaby, settled nine miles south of Lavoy in 1903. The Suddaby sons Peter, Howard, Bill, Ernest and Thomas were old enough to claim homesteads. Daughter Margaret married Tom Burkholder and lived in Calgary. That is where Gladys Burkholder was born.

The Tuck family came from the Leduc district, same place from which the Burkholders moved. They settled eight miles south of Lavoy, on the east bank of a coulee (Aplomb District). The Tuck family consisted of five sons and one daughter: John, Horace, Lloyd, Floyd, Boyd, and Mae. Floyd still farms in the district and has achieved a great measure of prosperity.

The Dinwoodie children were William, George, Dave, Frances, Richard Jr., Annie, Agnes, Walter and Margaret. Walter was a popular U. of A. Faculty member and, in his honor, a lounge at the University is named Dinwoodie Lounge.

The Dinwoodie post office was a stopping place for would-be homesteaders. And the home was something else as the following will testify. Mary Melnyk (Bohme), daughter of Fred and Annie Melnyk, formerly of Innisfree, residing in Grand Centre, has her birth certificate which states she was born at Dinwoodie P.O. on August 28, 1905, and baptized by Fr. A. Fylypiw, O.S.B.M., in the same home two months later, on October 24, 1905. It appears that the homestead-seekers, on their way to locate or prove up on their homesteads, were forced to stay at a stranger's place until "things got better." It proves too that the early settlers were very kind and accommodating.

Other pioneer families were the Stonehockers — John, Lloyd and Vera; the Humbles; the McGregors with a family of about 21 — the father was a farmer and first blacksmith; Duffys — they built the cement block house (present Wolinski home) one-quarter mile east of Lavoy, and later owned the store which eventually was sold to Louis Bricker who came to Lavoy in 1916.

In the Nuttborough district were the Dobells, Briggs, Gillespies, McCutcheons, and McHenryrs. Adolph Rode, a bachelor, had a fine home and the first closed car. The Sandfords lived three miles east of Lavoy; their daughter Margaret married Austin Stanton. The Smileys came about 1917, and Lawrence still farms the home place. Zulegars were a musical family.

South of Lavoy lived the Pomeroyrs, Valentines, Kittles, and Tweedales. J. Tweedale married Dr.

Arthur's daughter Jessie, the school teacher. The Kittles were also a musical family.

In the Victory District lived the following families: Ryan, Blackburn, Morris, Auch, Roth and Crowe. Earlier, St. Peters lived west from Victory School.

In the mid-twenties, new names appeared: Semeniuk, Pelletier, Tyzyk, Tunis, and Koban. The McParlands were pioneer hotel-keepers. Their "Palmer House" had no insulation nor central heating, and was therefore quite cold in winter and hot in summer. The summer heat, no doubt, encouraged the bar sales. One winter incident refers to a farmer who came down from room number 14. He had his fur coat and cap on, and was trying to thaw out his moustache by the freshly-stoked heater.

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur moved from Vegreville to Lavoy around 1920. The family had originally come from Prince Edward Island. The Doctor established the Vegreville R. M. Boswell Hospital, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Mission. In Lavoy, Dr. Arthur was a doctor, druggist, postmaster, and telephone switchboard operator.

The Johnson Patterson family were early residents. Their daughter Muriel taught in Vegreville for a long time. Mrs. Johnson Patterson was caretaker of the Lavoy School for many years and was a favorite with the school children. Johnson was a self-appointed policeman and towards evening when he hollered, all the children disappeared. (One version of a curfew!)

The first radios were crystal sets, made by Stewart Arthur and John Tuck. They proved to be quite fickle.

Spence and Daisy Hughes had a great orchestra: Wally Kittle — saxophone, Clarence Zulegar — trumpet, Fred Reesor and Bob Kittle — drums, Harry Regan — violin, Spence Hughes — violin, and Daisy Hughes — piano.

When a young Lavoy couple got married in those days, the community put on a dance for them; all they had to do was make the lunch, and the couple received a new breakfast suite, buffet, table and chairs all free. Even the music was supplied gratis.

After Spence and Daisy moved away (they live by Hope, B.C.), Joe Dubuc and his group played at most of the dances. In the winter the young people from the farm went with team and sleigh, sang all the way to the dance and slept all the way back, coming home about five or six o'clock in the morning — time for breakfast.

Old-timers recall vividly two prairie fires. One came from Wetaskiwin district about 1905, and the other was the Grand Trunk (southern railway) fire of

1910. A Gienger girl lost her life fighting the fire in the vicinity of Victory School.

The first cemetery was located on Sickman Hill, a high spot and at that time an unsurveyed area. A few settlers are buried there. Thomas Suddaby died in 1910 after being kicked by a horse. He was buried on Sickman Hill. Other names on grave markers were Richard Dinwoodie Sr., who died after falling off the train at Fort Saskatchewan, 1906; the Gienger girl; Sandford baby; and Mrs. Leo Bonnes. Presently the graveyard is part of a field and has no accessible road. A surveyed official graveyard was established one mile west of Lavoy.

Oxen were used till about 1914, when horses became more common. Some wagons were home-made, clumsy but functional. Some early settlers had no means of conveyance, and carried flour, groceries, etc. on their backs for many miles.

The Edmonton and Winnipeg trails, skirting lakes and sloughs and sticking to high ground as much as and wherever possible, passed by the edge of the village. Although the trail has been obliterated by time and man, there are a few old-timers who can trace it with no difficulty.

The first highway, built with horses and mules, went straight east from Vegreville to the M. Semeniuk-J. Palsatt's corner, south to Ed. Sanford's gate, then through the village — past the present school and Bricker's Store, east to W. Melnyk's corner, south to A. Rode's (M. Babysh's corner, and on east to Ranfurly.

Although several families and businesses have been described at some length, space does not permit full coverage of all the early or later residents. Using old-timers recollections, the writer shall make brief remarks about some early Lavoy and district pioneers and incidents.

Some C.N. Station agents were Bigham, Wheaton, Rutherford, and Oliver. Some night men were Davis, Rasmussen, Patterson, Tyzyk, and McDougall.

Charles McDougall was a partner in the McDougall Secord Railway construction. When they quit work, he brought his horses to the farm (presently owned by Ed. Sanford) to winter them. Some did not survive. Mrs. McDougall and Mrs. McParland were sisters whose maiden name was Baisley.

W. I. Sandford was a general merchant, operated the post office, and had a barn for milk cows. Later he sold the store to Bob Patterson.

Mrs. Bridget Fahy and sons James (Jim), John Jr., Leo and Arthur (Art) first homesteaded six miles south of Lavoy, 1905. Thirteen years after Mrs. Fahy remarried, Art farmed one mile west of Lavoy, just west of the graveyard. Art. the only surviving mem-

ber of the family, farmed till 1953. All four brothers were bachelors. At 77, Art knows Lavoy real well, having been born and raised there.

Joseph Lavoie later built a big tall house on the present Ed. Sanford's place.

Later business places: general store — Olyan and Bricker, general store — Mazar and Dowhey, butcher shop and store — S. Shewchuk, butcher shop and coffee shop — N. Dudziak, confectionery store — J. Matwiw, harness and shoe shop — M. Slywchuk, blacksmith shop — H. Koban, blacksmith shop — P. Semeniuk, garage and implement shop — M. Kariam and P. Haluschak, garage and implement shop — J. H. and Hollis Tuck, garage and service station — J. Orfino and B. Sikal, feed and chop mill — J. Samoil, carpenter shop — J. Matwiw, lumberyard, — L. Bricker, pool and billiard hall — in hotel annex, several fuel and oil agencies.

St. Peter brothers Joe and Pat (1906-10) ran a livery barn and had race horses and coyote hounds.

William Purdue and Alex Dowhey had served as mayor the longest, each about thirty years.

Dan Bigham, the first station agent, 1907, was an excellent violinist. Mrs. Bigham played the piano and their son Cyril the bugle.

Louis Daulphinis was the first section foreman, 1905. He could play the violin and dance with both feet at the same time.

George Walz was secretary of the school district and also the village, 1907.

Fred Bentley was the first implement agent, 1906.

Hal Hulburst was a butcher, 1906.

Stonehocker Bros. were involved in real estate. They were mighty hunters. In 1908 Lloyd had the first car in the district, a McLaughlin — an event that was in the Edmonton Journal Jubilee issue fifty years later.

Sam Scott was the Alberta Pacific grain buyer, 1906.

Alex Gourlay was a harness-maker, 1906. He was lost in the Lac La Biche district while trapping and trading with the natives.

I. Ingham was a merchant — opposite Bricher's Store. He had hopes of starting a cheese factory (on a site approximately two blocks east of the Dowhey Store — the former J. H. Tuck property).

Two Negroes farmed near Carlson's, six miles south of Lavoy. The elder one lost his farm to the mortgage company, and the younger one got a mail-order wife and soon left.

Nuttborough district was named after R. R. McNutt, a divine healer, 1903.

In 1904, Andrew Briggs, R. R. McNutt, Richard Dinwoodie Sr., and the Hubbards used their teams

and wagons to travel to Edmonton and bring back, in one trip, all the lumber and materials for building Nuttborough School. It was a long difficult journey; sloughs, lakes, creeks, and mosquitoes contributed to the hardships.

Steve Predyk was the McCormick Deering and Imperial Oil Dealer in the 1940's. The implement shop was just south of Central (Bill Sikal's) Garage and the bulk oil station was by the stockyards.

The stockyards were located by the elevators, next to the railway track. The yards were thriving and noisy places for nearly half a century.

Harvey Doherty built the Central Garage in 1927, on the site of a former livery barn owned by I. Sinclair.

George and Richard Jr. Dinwoodie were engaged in custom breaking and general team work. They owned the first 15-30 McCormick-Deering tractor.

Veitch operated a grist mill, 1906.

George R. Bond was a lumber merchant, location — near present Community Hall, 1905-08. He was also a Massey-Harris agent. He married Kit St. Peter.

Archie Coxford, an early Lavoy resident, later became Superintendent of Elk Island Park.

Lloyd Moore, presently living near Kelowna, B.C., comes from a family that farmed a lot of land south of Lavoy.

Charles Ward was an Irish remittance man, 1906.

Joseph Stonehocker was a veteran of the American Civil War.

Andrew Rosequist had one of the first tractors in the district — a Mogul, about 1917.

The farm one-half mile west of Lavoy had the following owners: Davidson, Colwill, Yuschyshyn, and Fedyna.

Patterson owned one-half of E.C.D. creamery in Vegreville, 1923-25.

Jonas Feather was an early homesteader. Later he was a skipper of a boat in interior B.C. After some years he came back to Lavoy and finally retired in Vegreville, 1944.

The McCutcheon ranch was noted for its Clydesdale and trained saddle horses. The first breeders of the Clydes were the Inglis brothers.

Peter Suddaby had some very fine Shorthorn cattle, some of which took prizes in all levels of competition.

Martin Sonkson was a homesteader and plasterer; he built many chimneys in the district.

The house west of Bricker's Store was built by Robert Patterson in 1916. Mrs. Gourlay planted the maple trees.

After World War I, 1919, Dave Valentine, Jock and Dan Tweedale, Charles Rattray, Fred Kittle and

Atkinson acquired land south and west of the village and formed a partnership for farming operations.

Since 1906, the Village of Lavoy has undergone a metamorphosis. The elevators have grown bigger because of their annexes, but they are getting to be fewer in number. Because of the modern means of transportation, grain can be hauled longer distances. Many of the original businesses have disappeared or ceased to operate. The brick store (one-half block west of Bricker's Store) was torn down sixty years ago. Bricker's Store is closed. Machine and implement shops have disappeared. No bank is in operation. The barber shops are closed up. The two blacksmith shops are vacant buildings. The store opposite Bricker's Store has disappeared. No central telephone service exists. The United Church Building was sold to the Baptists 25 years ago. Only one service station remains. The railway station was closed about ten years ago. The skating rink was moved from mid-town to the schoolyard for easier accessibility for school children. Waterworks and sewer disposal facilities were installed in 1976, and natural gas reached the village in 1957. No shoe-maker plies his trade. New homes are being erected and some old ones are gone or have been updated. The car wreckage yard welcomes the eastward traveller and farewells the westward one. The communication towers on Sickman Hill grace the northern backdrop. The Indians have long since gone from their "Mecca" spot on the south side of Sickman Hill. The small graveyard on the hill has succumbed to time and neglect. But the heartbeat of the village is as vibrant as ever.

The present mayor, Alex Dowhey, and his council composed of Mike Sydora and Barry McCarty and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Elaine Grykuliak, are as busy as ever, endeavoring to cater to the well-being of the citizens. All utilities — water, sewer, gas, power; paved streets and sidewalks; the tax base; by-laws of all kinds — all these services and problems are uppermost in the minds of the village fathers. Meanwhile, the school, the remaining elevators, the two stores, the hotel, the curling rink, the hall and the two churches are "business as usual."

No longer is heard the chopping of the trees to build homes, the creaking wagons on their way to market, and the hammering of the spikes into the Canadian Northern. No longer is there the hustle and bustle of land clearing. No longer are missionaries around ministering to soul and body. No longer is mother administering home-made cures. No longer does the trip to Edmonton take about two weeks. No longer are homesteaders found on every homestead

quarter. No longer are hitching posts found on the streets (removed in 1931).

Life is easier and perhaps swifter. Good roads, paved or gravelled, and comfortable cars provide fast and convenient transportation. A return trip to Edmonton takes four hours. Modern conveniences — power, gas, water, electrical appliances are, no doubt, a godsend. Modern schools cater to all students, with different abilities and inclinations. Bigger farms are operated by big machinery, some single units costing 100 thousand dollars. Homes are comfortable and clothes are fashionable, and, in many cases, utilitarian.

Seventy-five years ago our pioneers lived in the North-West Territories. This year the Province of Alberta is celebrating its Anniversary, seventy-five years of growth and achievement. Lavoy residents have played a significant part in the overall development and prosperity.

The writer is indebted to the following people for some of the above information: Floyd Tuck, John Tuck, J. Stanley Patterson, Dorothy Sanford, Gladys

Doherty, Art Fahy, R. Ken Hughes, B. Eaton, Mary Slywchuk, Alex Dowhey, and Mary Semeniuk.

Old Warwick

by Ada Dunn

The Woods Store and Post Office building as built about 1903. Grace Sigler built a store in 1904. Sigler and Richardson built a livery barn in Vegreville in 1906 or 1907. Woods and Cochrane bought the Grace Sigler store, and the post office was moved. Cochrane bought out Woods in 1912; later he sold out to Mr. Burkholder in 1913, and Burkholder sold the store to Mr. McGuillan in 1921.

Fairwood School was built in 1902 or 1903. Brookside School west of Old Warwick was opened in 1906, and the first teacher was A. Roddick. Wolia School, east of Old Warwick, was built in 1913; first teacher was Harry Fisher. School was located on corner of William Lorenson's homestead.

Old Warwick ceased to exist when Warwick, eight miles directly north of Vegreville, started up in 1928 when the C.P.R. went through from Vegreville to Willingdon.



Jr. F.U.A. Program at Lavoy Hall. (L to r.) Ed Kott, Terry Semeniuk, Lawrence Hubbard, Lorne Kott, Eugene Laschuk, Elsie Juba, and Bernice Hubbard, unknown, 1952.



Wynn-McKenzie and his sister and her husband built this store at Old Warwick in 1905. They retired to Port Kells, British Columbia in 1941.



Palmer House (Lavoy Hotel) about 1920. Note Meat Market sign.



Lavoy Ukrainian Catholic Church — formerly Kolomea School — 1960.

Typical Pioneer Buildings



After having a straw cattle barn, Hans Eberhardt built this log barn in the 1930's. Soon it was too small for horses and cattle. The carpenter, Mr. E. Eickmeyer, built the barn in the background. Wages then were 55¢ an hour for this carpenter. Late 1950's the log barn was torn down and added onto the big barn. Hans Eberhardt on top with 2 of his sons, 1955.



Farm home of J. Richardson — "Prairie Lodge", 1 mile north of Vegreville, about 1915.



Left side was used for grinding flour with two stones. Middle was shed for buggy. Right side — chickens were penned with mesh fence. Built and used by Kolmatycki family. Photo 1980.



Engel home at Beaver Lake. About 1935.



Fane house on Beaver Lake farm, 1922. It's still there.

Churches and Church Groups



Above right: The log cabin used as residence and chapel by the first resident priest, Fr. Bernier at Old Vegreville, 1904. Lower left: St. Martin's School, first convent, temporary classrooms, and St. Martin's church. Lower right: Rectory and St. Joseph's Hospital. The beginning of the Catholic settlement at new town-site 1906-1914.



Corpus Christie Procession, 1928. To the right is Father Joseph Burke and sister to the left (by three little boys) is Sister St. Daniel-ex-Galagher girl.

St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Parish, Vegreville

compiled by Betty (Brinton) Hantiuk, 1979

Since the first settlers to arrive in this area were Roman Catholics, this denomination has played an important part in the development of Vegreville. On April 21, 1894, Joseph Poulin and Benoit Tetreault (later shortened to "Tetreau"), ex-patriot Canadiens from Kansas, along with other friends and family, claimed virgin land around Waskewa (Birch Creek) ca. section 34-51-15. Devout people, these pioneers and more Catholics who soon migrated to this fertile area, were served for several years by visiting priests: Father Boulenc from Saddle Lake, and Father Dorais from Lamoureux. With population augmented by more homesteaders, including "les anglais" (the Mounted Police census of August, 1894, numbered 88 inhabitants of the area), a post office was applied for. In old tradition, the name of a saint (Joseph de Mazenod) was proposed, but the government countered by suggesting that a missionary be so honored.

Accordingly, Tetreau and Poulin proposed the name of a missionary priest, Father Vegreville, who

was well-known in Saskatchewan territory but never a resident here.

Thereafter, the settlement was known as Vegreville; the post office opening on December 5, 1895, with Eugene Poulin as Postmaster. The first death in the parish occurred June 30, 1894, when a child, Elmina Houle, died of meningitis. The first marriage on March 10, 1895, united Eugene Poulin and Philomene Menard. Informal school classes were taught by M. Theodore Theroux; all these services took place in homes as there was no public building yet in Vegreville.

In February, 1895, citizens petitioned for a government school, which, by majority right, was to be a Catholic Public School. Visiting the settlement in July, 1901, Bishop Legal approved construction of a church and saw the election of first church trustees: Benoit Tetreau, Eugene Poulin, and John Stanton. Finally, January 9, 1904, the first resident pastor arrived: Rev. Auguste Bernier of the order of Canons Regular of the Immaculate Conception.

He took up temporary residence in a rough log 14' x 30' workshop with a weed-grown sod roof, located on the church lot on SW 35-51-15. Being a talented builder, Pere Bernier with the help of parishioners, soon converted part of the shed into a chapel, meanwhile organizing for erection of a permanent church.

Bishop Legal came again to bless the undertaking and to place the parish under the patronage of St. Martin of Tours. The church (located where Old Vegreville School/Community centre stands today) was of frame construction, the rough lumber brought from forty miles north and the finishing material from Edmonton; it measured 24' x 36' with an attached sacristy, 14' x 16'. Completed that spring, it was officially opened on St. Jean Baptiste day, June 24, 1904, with a High Mass, followed by a community fete featuring a concert and a raffle which netted over \$400.00.

In September, 1904, Fr. Bernier received an assis-



Catholic Church, about 1920.



Processions at St. Martin's Church, about 1926. Starting about 1906, and on till discontinued in 1950 or so, the congregation held an annual procession to honor the Blessed Sacrament every Corpus Christie Sunday.

tant — Fr. Jean Garnier, an old friend of missionary days in the Saskatchewan territory. Between them, they undertook to serve many out-lying missions, including Warwick, Birch Lake, Brosseau, Ranfurly (and later on, when rail came, Vermilion and Lloydminster). Vegreville was by that time a flourishing settlement with most land taken up and numerous businesses sited at the crossroads; it was no longer predominantly French-Catholic but rather a Canadian mixture of races and creeds. When in 1905 the Canadian Northern Railway by-passed the village by five miles and businesses and post office were relocated at the new site, some of the Catholics moved, too, but a few of the faithful clung to the old location. Father Leduc, sent out to assess the situation, declared from the pulpit on Easter Sunday, 1906, that henceforth the parish would be centered at the new town site. Then some twenty acres were reserved for church use in the northeast part of “New” Vegreville and construction began immediately on the north bank of the river (east of 43 St.) of a large house — an “omnibus” building which served first as priests’ residence and chapel, later in turn as school, hospital, and rectory. Soon Catholic families settled in the area, which thus earned the nick-name “French-town”. A subscription was started to finance a new church and in six weeks \$1,100.00 was collected. The structure, begun on October 23, 1906, was overseen by both Pères Bernier and Garnier who were talented builders, but the contract was let to Mr. Pierre Bernier.

Officially opened and blessed on December 16, 1906, the church was an attractive frame building, 80’ x 36’, painted white, with black, high-pitched roof and soaring spire. The congregation was soon augmented by the attendance of Old Vegreville parishioners and their choir; the old church there could not be moved due to its location on the south side of the creek, and so it fell into disuse.



Two beloved pastors of St. Martin's Parish, 1940. Rev. Frs. G. Strickland and J. Burke.

On August 11, 1907, Bishops Legal and Pascal visited Vegreville to administer the sacrament of Confirmation, and also to bless the church bell, a fine one donated by parishioner August Hartman. Made in Montreal by Crevier and Sons, and weighing 1500 lbs., this bell was raised in the high steeple of St. Martin's; its tones were heard for miles around as it rang the call to Mass or the Angelus, the great bell-rope pulled by a Mr. Plouffe or by a strong altar boy. Sited at the east end of Hospital Avenue (now 54a Ave.) in grounds which were attractively landscaped, St. Martin's Church was an unusually beautiful oasis in the pioneer wilderness. Continuing to serve the parish and missions, Fathers Bernier and Garnier also oversaw construction of the Roman Catholic convent, school, and hospital, all located adjacent to the church for the convenience of the pastors who acted as chaplains.

In 1908, worn out from these endeavours, Father Garnier took a holiday to the sulfur springs at Banff, and, as he mentions in his memoirs, on his return he got a free trip from Calgary to Edmonton as a result of a chance encounter with the legendary Father Lacombe — “ex-president of the CPR.”

Père Garnier also stated that Father Lacombe was present in Vegreville in 1911 at the opening of the General Hospital.

In 1909, when Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a whistle-stop here, the French part of the address on that occasion was prepared by Fr. Garnier. In 1913, this energetic priest moved away to become pastor of Lamoureux parish where he remained for 34 years, returning to Vegreville with his sister Claire to retire in 1947; from his neat little home near the church, he assisted with parish work until infirm; he died in 1972 at St. Albert.

Meanwhile, Fr. Schnitzler assisted Fr. Bernier at St. Martin's until the latter was transferred at the end of 1917 to become Chancellor of the diocese of Edmonton. Several priests filled in at Vegreville, one being Fr. Bazin; and in 1922 a permanent pastor was appointed — Fr. Dominic Rowland, the first priest here of Irish extraction. Faced with the difficult years of depression, in order to keep the parish solvent, Fr. Rowland, accompanied by a trustee, would drive by team or car around the district visiting parishioners, but also collecting some little money or produce for the church. Parishioners were sometimes shamed into donating more by the prevailing custom of reading from the pulpit the yearly donation of each family; e.g. “ten dollars/dix piastres” (St. Martin's was a bilingual church until about 1950, with sermons and instructions given in both French and English — a great convenience for tired church-goers who could nap while the alternate language was spoken.) Fr.



St. Martin's Rectory during flood of 1956. Located on north bank of Vermilion River and 43 St., this was the "omnibus building" constructed in 1910 and used as hospital, school, and rectory; Riverside Cemetery in right background.



Some of the numerous boarders at the Daughters of Providence convent, 1928 to 1935.



St. Martin's R. C. Church built in 1954 and Rectory added in 1962.



St. Martin's School, Convent, and R.C. Church, about 1925.

Rowland left Vegreville in 1936; he died in 1945 in Edmonton.

In 1936, Rev. J. W. Burke moved here from Trochu, and with improvement in the general economy, he managed to revive finances and social life in the parish. A vital person, Fr. Burke's many interests included wild geese and Bridge; he was also a talented musician and entertained at numerous community affairs along with his assistant, Fr. J. Strickland, an Irish tenor.

Fr. Burke was transferred to Edmonton in 1950 and Fr. Strickland became pastor here. Since the church building had deteriorated beyond repair, it was decided to build anew, with a construction committee consisting of Alphonse Tetreau, Lemuel Cole, Vlad Pardely, John Paquette, and Mike Zenko who was the supervisor of the job. The new building of modest post-war design was erected immediately south of the old church which was later demolished, saving only the historic bell for use in the present building. The new church was officially opened on May 23, 1954, and stands with minor alterations

today. In 1962 an attached rectory with double garage replaced the ancient residence on the riverbank.

The next regular pastor was Fr. Charles Keenan; in 1962 Fr. C. Nearing came, followed by Fr. McCarthy in 1964, R. Dobbin, Fr. J. Murphy in 1972, and Fr. J. Ayling, the present pastor, in 1974. A few of the short-term pastors and assistants were Fathers Hickey, Malone, H. Bees, Cordeau, Mitchell, Tigner, McLellan. In the early years, trustees guided church finances; church renewal included formation of the Vegreville Deanery Pastoral Council which included representatives from eleven surrounding parishes. Locally, a Parish Council was formed and remains active today, assisting the pastor in liturgical matters as well as more mundane affairs. A precedent was set in 1963 when the Council elected its first feminine chairperson — Mrs. Dale (Mary) Wilson. Through the decades, pastors and parishioners have been inspired and aided by two religious orders — Daughters of Providence and Sisters of Charity of

Evron — whose members have served as sacristans, catechists, leaders of song, and even cooks.

Currently, St. Martin of Tours parish consists of about 250 local families of many racial origins. The missions of New Kiew and Innisfree continue to be served by the Vegreville pastor.

By the grace of God, St. Martin's will observe its 75th anniversary in 1979.

St. Martin of Tours Council of the Catholic Women's League, Vegreville

by Betty Hantiuk

St. Martin of Tours Council of the Catholic Women's League was formed in Vegreville in 1922, just ten years after the first Canadian CWL was initiated in Edmonton. Previously, parish ladies had worked together as "Altar Societies", etc. With the encouragement of the pastor, Father Dominic Rowland, the local CWL was officially chartered in March, 1923, with Mrs. A. Couillard as president, and Mrs. J. J. Stanton as secretary-treasurer. Their first public project was the sale of shamrocks on March 17, 1923, at the Community Club Room in the Alberta Hotel. Another project was serving meals at the annual Vegreville Exhibition, a service continued almost yearly until 1977. In the early twenties, the Fair Grounds was mostly bald prairie with no utilities, of course. The ladies, with husband assistance, set up rough plank tables and benches, shaded by leafy poplar branches, about where the Elks booth stands today. Since there was no running water, Mrs. Henry Dumont "ran" the water for CWL use by means of horse and stone-boat. Other popular CWL affairs were teas, bazaars, card parties, and fowl suppers; these were usually held in the Dobbins Hall (now Legion Hall), since the first St. Martin's Church had no parish hall.

During the depression years, the CWL became "depressed" and was not reactivated until Father Burke became pastor in 1936. Revitalized, the Council, with Margaurette McCarty as president, hosted the Diocesan Convention in 1938, at which time the Diocesan president was a former Vegrevillian, Sadie (Stanton) Ross, again in 1956 with President Indiana Paquette, and in 1962 with Jeanne Den Ouden convening, the local Council welcomed Diodesan CWL delegates to Vegreville.

Through the years, the CWL, whose motto is "For God and Canada", has attempted to further the welfare, both physical and spiritual, of the parish, the community, and the country, by such activities as spiritual retreats and Masses; serving of lunches for bereaved families; scholarships and prizes to students; sponsoring speakers and attending and working for community programs; helping with Guides

and Brownies; and attending CWL workshops and conventions. At one time, the ladies did all the janitor work for the church and rectory; many older CWL members still have calloused knees, earned as much by scrubbing sacred aisles as by praying. Times have changed for the better in many ways, but the once-popular ladies' organization seems passé now, and only a handful of parish women are active in CWL work today. Always co-operative, the Sisters were formerly honorary members but are now very active in our Council. Besides those already cited, some of the ardent workers of earlier decades include: Mrs. H. Bender, Mary Bourget, Oria Forcade, Louise Cole, Margaret Brinton, Mary Zenko, Albertine Tetreau, Indiana Paquette, Eileen Walker, Eugenie Pelletier, Lena Stanton, and Mrs. Joe Cassidy, plus numerous others who have been active members since the 30's.

In 1973 the Council celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a joyful gathering in St. Martin's church hall; at that time a pictorial history album was compiled by Suzanne Benoit, Peggy Tetreau, and Betty Hantiuk, and it is hoped this will be an on-going CWL project.

During 1979, in observing International Year of the Child, the local CWL sponsored a youngster's attendance at summer camp, and is involved in the Vietnamese Refugee project.

Les Filles de la Providence **also known as Daughters of Providence** **by Sister Melanie Raymond**

In all reality, a whole book could be written on the participation in and devotedness to Vegreville, by the Congregation known as Les Filles de la Providence.

This French Congregation arrived in Vegreville at the request of the then parish-priest, Reverend Father Bernier and his assistant Reverend Father Garnier. This latter had worked with the congregation in Saskatchewan, and had strongly recommended that Fr. Bernier try to obtain some of the sisters for his young parish.

So it was, that on December 13, 1906, Mother Saint Adelaide arrived, accompanied by Sr. St. Leonard and Sr. Marie Madeleine, to lay the foundations of a convent and a school. The house of the parish priest was their residence for a short time. In January, 1907, the first convent was set up. Here Mother Saint Adelaide started a small separate school. Naturally the French diplomas were not accredited in Alberta, even if, since her arrival in Canada, Mother had mastered fairly well the English language. But this was not an obstacle to her zeal. Firm and courageous in her purpose, Mother ob-



Mother Saint Adelaide, early 1900's.



Sr. M. Benedict, taught at St. Martin's School for many years. Early 1900's.



Sr. St. Daniel May Gallagher, taught at Vegreville for many years. Early 1900's.



Rev. Father Jean Garnier, early 1900's.



Sister Marie Claire, first Canadian Sister of Daughters of Providence (entered in July, 1908).

tained the services of a Catholic teacher, who had previously taught in the public school. This teacher was Miss Anna Doyle who, after a few months with the sisters, was completely won over by the charity of Mother Adelaide and the simplicity of life-style of the sisters in general. Accordingly, Miss Doyle requested the favor of joining the Order and thus became the first Canadian Daughter of Providence under the name of Sister Marie Claire.

The same year, 1907, in the springtime, was undertaken the construction of the boarding school. Both Fr. Bernier and Fr. Garnier were completely dedicated to this work, so much so, that in September the place was ready to receive sisters, boarders and day-scholars as well. Fr. Garnier was a most precious aid in these days. Indeed, his wonder-working tools brought forth tables, chairs, benches, cupboards; name it . . . it was there.

Soon the convent was too small; a second class was necessary, and a second teacher was hired. Three more sisters came from Saskatchewan to help the rapidly-growing field of labour.

In 1914 a large school was built to accommodate about two hundred pupils. Five years later, a new wing was added to the convent. In 1919, a second addition was made. Since Miss Doyle had entered, Mother Adelaide also established the first Canadian novitiate for the training of sisters. The number of sisters gradually rose up to fifteen and several young girls among the pupils entered the novitiate. Due to uncontrollable circumstances, this novitiate was later transferred to Prud'homme, Saskatchewan, in 1923.

In 1918, Vegreville was struck, as was the rest of

the country, with the Spanish flu. By order of the Department of Education and Health, all schools had to be temporarily closed. The sisters, in these circumstances, transformed part of the convent into an infirmary where they helped tend the sick, day and night. It was a helping hand to the sisters of the hospital at the same time, as they had more than they could handle.

After the epidemic, things were gradually restored to normal, and the boarders returned, numerous as ever.

In 1969, after 63 years of labor and dedication, they left this beloved spot where so many had spent years of happiness. Before their departure, however, the parish gathered to show their appreciation and gratitude to the sisters. Several former pupils came for the Sunday High Mass and the friendly banquet which followed. His Excellency the Archbishop of Edmonton was kind enough to honor this gathering with his presence. Several presentations were made, and though the reunion was a joyous one, all felt it was a regretful event and a loss for Vegreville.

After the departure of the sisters, the building was used for a short time by a group of people, as a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics, but the venture was not too successful.

Later, the whole property was sold to the Association for the Mentally Handicapped. Unfortunately, before they had any time to undertake a project there, the building was completely burned down . . . a case of arson.



The Daughters of Providence (Sisters) departing from Vegreville, June, 1969, on their way to Prince Albert, Sask.



Interior of the first St. Martins R.C. Church, about 1920.



The first Convent, erected in 1907.



The wooden Convent was enlarged and covered with brick, 1920's.

Ten of our sisters are buried in the Vegreville cemetery, among others, our revered Mother Adelaide, the foundress, who died in Vegreville on December 31, 1938.

A chapter of history has ended here . . . what the future holds for this spot where once was so much life and activity, only the Lord knows.

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the arrival of the first sisters from France, in 1947, Vegreville was represented at Prud'homme, Saskatchewan, by a fair group of High School students.

Years of depression hit hard at Vegreville, just as everywhere else. The numbers of boarders decreased to the point that part of the convent was closed off. The sisters continued, however, to teach at St. Martin's Separate School.

Better times came again; new life sprang up at the convent, but not for too long. School centralization brought another change in the school system, and caused a second dwindling in numbers of the boarders. Finally the boarding school was completely closed. Only four sisters were left at Vegreville; 2 teachers, a piano teacher (Sr. M. Theophile) and a house-keeper.

Like all other congregations, from the 60's on, the Daughters of Providence experienced the sad fate of losing several of their members who returned to the secular world. Moreover, several elder sisters had passed away. In spite of the numerous petitions received from the different organizations of the parish, the provincial council decided to withdraw the sisters from Vegreville.

Our Lady of the Highway Council 4249 Vegreville, Alberta

September 1955 to June 1979

Compiled by M. Tomyn and P. Kuchatoski

The Vegreville Knights of Columbus Sub-Council was formed in September, 1955, with Brother Sam Smolyk its first Presiding Knight. The sub-council was under the guidance of the Vermilion Council. No other information on the work of the sub-council is available since the records appear to have been lost.

The Vegreville K. of C. Council was chartered on June 17, 1956, with 57 newly-initiated members. The first meeting of the new council was held in September, 1956.

The council initiated a good number of worthwhile community projects, some of which were:

- A Scholarship for the grade nine student with the highest achievement at St. Martin's School.
- Clothing drive for the needy, first for children at the Mundare Orphanage, then for poorer families in northern Alberta, and finally for the Marian Centre in Edmonton — where the clothing is distributed to destitute families.
- Later the vegetable drive held in September and October. The vegetables were shipped to the Marian Centre for distribution to needy families, and recently they have been given to the Salvation Army, for similar allotment.

The first K. of C. Ladies' Night was held in February, 1958, where the families of the organization had a festive time. Later the group included guests outside the fraternity and this arrangement has lasted to the present time. The Ladies' Night is the most popular social event of the year.

The Lady of the Highway Shrine was completed in 1961 and since that time the K. of C. Council has been officially called Our Lady of the Highway Council #4249. Later the Fourteen Stations of the Cross were added to the shrine grounds. Lights were installed, evergreens were planted, and the parking area was paved. Many tourists visit this landmark every year. (History of this Highway Shrine appears elsewhere in this book).

Normally, every year the Council draws up a list of charitable and fraternal activities which they



K. of C.'s ham it up at amateur program. (L. to r.) — Joe Dubuc, Marshall Kuzyk, and R. Robert. Late 1950's.

would like to carry out. Following is a typical example of such activities. September to June:

- Clothing Drive
- Vegetable Drive
- Installation of Officers
- Memorial Night
- Grey Cup Pool
- Initiation
- Remembrance Day Observance
- District Meeting
- K.C. — Mason Spiel
- K.C. mixed Spiel

- Vegreville Christmas Bureau
- Ladies' Night
- State Raffle
- Communion Breakfast
- May Day Devotion
- Altar Boys' Rally
- Grade 9 Scholarship
- Canvassing — C.N.I.B., Red Cross, Cancer, Heart Fund
- Tag Day
- Family Picnic
- Bingo and Raffle

The Tag Day proceeds were used for a family picnic, in conjunction with the staff and children from the Mundare Orphanage. With the closing of the orphanage in 1967 the picnic is a family affair, but the former empathy is not as pronounced.

In 1958, to encourage sports among the youth, the Council started the Little League Baseball, followed by other leagues like Pee Wees, Pony, and Babe Ruth. With so many teams taking part, the knights solicited the help of various organizations, each to sponsor a team, equip the players, supply the coaches, and build ball diamonds. There were times when as many as two hundred boys participated in the sport. A commission was selected to handle the



K. of C.'s present to Mundare Orphanage, 1950. Vegreville Council was very active then, and did much to help the-then orphans of Mundare. Above is the parting scene following a concert and entertainment. Some of the attendants recognized are (up left side and down right) — Joe Homenick, Henry Landry, Eugene Pelletier, Paul Kuchatoski, Joe Dubuc — presenting cheque to Sister Superior, Denise Sokoluk, Mike Cikaliuk, a Landry girl, Alice Steblyk, Mrs. Bill Bushko, Melina Dubuc, George Bourget, Mary and Denis Bourget, Ed. Wuetherick, two Sakaluk boys. The orphans are all dressed in white shirts.

activity but as time went on, the children and parents lost interest and today the league lacks much of its former lustre. This is a sad commentary, unique not only to sports.

The Council has supported the Recreation Centre with a sizeable grant towards the artificial ice plant.

From the religious aspect, the Council has encouraged retreats for men and women at the Star of the North Retreat House in St. Albert.

Donations have been made to Third World countries for building churches, training of priests, and assisting in other endeavors.

The K.C. - Mason Spiel held in January is the recreation highlight of the year. The game, the banquet, and the socializing are all part of the ecumenical spirit that should prevail at all gatherings in this enlightened age.

Another spiel, the K.C. — Mixed, is a family activity. Parents and children participate in the game, and prizes are awarded to top and bottom scorers. Trophies serve as mementos.

At one time, in the 1960's, the Brother Knights collected, repaired, and donated toys to the children at the Mundare Orphanage and later to children elsewhere. Presently the Christmas Bureau is a community effort to which the Council always lends its support.

To encourage students for the priesthood, the members offered financial assistance in the form of loans, later to be written off as grants, upon completion of the training. Just recently the Council has written off such a debit.

For many years the Council won the Star Council Award, emblematic of dedicated service.

The Council bulletin, published ten times a year, has won the award for excellence many times, once for four consecutive years, quite an achievement.

After some of the surrounding towns got their own Councils, the Vegreville Council lost some of its membership but still boasts of about 150 Knights.

Since 1955, thirty-three of our brothers have passed away. Annual Memorial Services are held in November for these departed brothers. The service is open to the public.

The Council members have given of themselves in an unstinting manner. Charity, unity, and fraternity serve as a motto. At the end of life's sojourn, for his help to his fellowman, the brother is farewelled with the plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Our Lady of the Highway Council #4249 Grand Knights

1955-56 — Sam Smolyk — Presiding Knight

1956-57 — Sam Smolyk — Charter Grand Knight

1957-58 — Joseph Dubuc — Grand Knight

1958-59 — Robert E. Robert

1959-60 — William Ogrodnick

1960-61 — William Bushko

1961-62 — Paul Kuchatoski

1962-63 — Paul Kuchatoski

1963-64 — Dr. N. J. Kuzyk

1964-65 — Eugene Horon

1965-66 — Dr. Jan Stefancik

1966-67 — Dr. Jan Stefancik

1967-68 — George Tetreau

1968-69 — Harry Sakuluk

1969-70 — Peter Polischuk

1970-71 — Nick Yakimyshyn

1971-72 — Don Jumaga and Dr. Francis Schulte

1972-73 — Michael Tomy

1973-74 — Michael Tomy

1974-75 — Chester Novakowski

1975-76 — Peter Krasilchuk

1976-77 — Peter Krasilchuk

1977-78 — Andrew McCormick

1978-79 — Andrew McCormick

1979-80 — Lowell Starko

Our Lady of the Highway Shrine

**Reprinted with the kind permission of the
Vegreville Observer**

"Our Lady of the Highway Shrine" is among those unique monuments that distinguishes Vegreville from other rural communities. Erected a number of years ago, this monument, located on Highway 16, has an interesting history to it. The following article was compiled by H. Sakaluk of Vegreville, October 23rd, 1960. Because of its topical nature, the Observer publishes this following record of yet another chapter in Vegreville's history.

The question is often asked, particularly since construction of the Lady of the Highway shrine in Vegreville got under way, to the following effect: "Yes, I know it's a Shrine, but why is it called 'Our Lady of the Highway' Shrine?"

The statue is dedicated to glorify the one and the same Blessed Virgin Mary that we all love and to whom we turn daily in our prayers, — the same Mary, Mother of God, that was and is honoured and revered throughout the world in every phase of our lives.

What description could be more appropriate than that of 'Heavenly Guide' along the highways of life — to guide us through the moral and spiritual dangers along the 'highway' to Heaven. Why not then also a 'Heavenly Guide' to guide us through the moral, spiritual and physical dangers that beset us in our simple everyday journeys along the cement, asphalt, gravel and dirt roads where death and serious



Our Lady of the Highway Shrine, Vegreville, Alberta, 1965.

accidents wait at every turn. When we realize that in recent years more people have been killed by automobiles on the roads and highways than have been killed in all the wars of the North American continent, then we begin to appreciate the dangers of the highway.

The custom of offering prayers to Our Lady by the traveller before embarking and while on his journey, asking that he and his loved ones and all other travelers be protected from the material and moral dangers that lurk along the highways of life, is as old as time itself. Our history books relate how many of our famous explorers, before embarking upon a voyage on land or on sea, first asked the blessings of Our Lady to protect and direct them in their journey, and how they prayed for continued guidance throughout the entire voyage. Such instances of prayers and devotion are recorded in the historic accounts of, amongst others, Christopher Columbus in his search for the New World, John and Sebastian Cabot, and Simon Fraser in his search for the northwest passage across Canada. There are even more unrecorded instances of devotions and prayers offered daily in past centuries by the peasant, farmer, labourer and traveller in almost every part of the world. We have ample evidence of this in the small wayside shrines and chapels (some times consisting of nothing more than a simple wooden cross) which are found in many countries. Here the weary traveller of days gone by (whether he was on foot, or travelling by cart or wagon pulled by a team of oxen or horses) would stop, rest, partake of his simple food, and would never fail to say a prayer to Mary, Patroness of travellers. A few of these simple wayside shrines, used by our forefathers in their travels, are still to be found in our own locality on out-of-the-way roads, slowly and surely going to ruin.

And, quite naturally, from this has developed a growing devotion to Our Lady in that same capacity, but known in recent years as 'Our Lady of the Highway'.

In our modern and fast-moving world many travellers will travel on Highway No. 16. For some the journey will be one which will take them to their farm home only a few miles down the road; for others it will be a part of a cross-country business trip, or possibly a sight-seeing trip for the family. It is hoped, however, that each and every one, while travelling for his own particular purpose, will stop and meditate, and possibly rest and have lunch, as did the travellers of old; — or, even if time does not permit the stop, that each and every one, as they pass swiftly with seemingly no more than an indifferent glance, will be impressed and influenced and as a result will solemnly consider the uncertainties of life and, continuing on their way, will softly say a prayer of thanks and devotion to Mary, Mother of God, our Lady of the Highway.

The shrine is located in Highway No. 16, just east of the eastern boundary of the Town of Vegreville. It is unique in almost every respect and is the only one of its kind in Canada. Of modernistic design, there is also a spacious parking area in front for the motorist who wishes to stop a while.

The central figure, the statue of Our Lady, is seven feet high, sculptured in Italy from Carrara Marble (commonly known as 'Italian White Marble').

The base upon which the statue stands, the larger base and enclosure surrounding it and the landscaping, designed especially for the Shrine by Mr. Walter Kubrak, B. of Arch., (formerly of Vegreville and presently of Edmonton) is a three-dimensional expression of the theme: divine guidance sought by the traveller throughout the world.

This theme is conveyed in the form of the world (represented by the sphere) surmounted by a statue of Our Lady. The theme is interwoven throughout the design by the use of the sphere and parts of the sphere: the statue rises above the grade with a partial sphere to represent in an abstract sense the world, the four hoops grouped together to form a cross also symbolize the "four corners of the world" and at the same time reflect "travel" by suggesting the wheel. The statue and base are the focal point of, and enhanced by, the circular enclosure of which the hedge of field stone forms its outer rim. The form of the cross is again achieved in an aerial view by four openings in the stone hedge, accented by the cement walk.

The statue was blessed by His Grace Archbishop Jordan, Edmonton.

Vegreville United Church 1901-1978

The earliest records of the Vermilion River Meth-

odist Mission in which the present Vegreville United Church had its origin, have been carefully preserved since 1902 and cover the period to 1914. The Mission was the out-growth of work begun by Rev. R. E. Finlay, who drove from Edmonton 75 miles away by horse and buggy to hold services in the homes of pioneers who settled in the Old Vegreville area around the turn of the century.

First services were held at the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cole. Rev. Mr. Finlay had been appointed by the Methodist Church in 1901 to serve an area from Tofield on the southwest to Warwick on the northeast, and in his reminiscences he paid tribute to the warmth of hospitality accorded him as he travelled from homestead to homestead and stayed wherever night overtook him.

The Mission was subdivided into four appointments: Tofield, Hairy Hill, Vegreville and Spring Creek. Names appearing prominently in the early records included Dr. and Mrs. Rush, Dr. and Mrs. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Worth, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fairbairn.



Reverend Schrag and Mrs. Schrag. He was a pioneer United Church minister, about 1925.

Dr. Rush's story of his experience as the first medical doctor in this area makes interesting reading in Dr. Hardin's 'History of Vegreville'.

Descendants of the Cole, Leach, Trenhaile, Jennings, Gould, Goodwin, and Kennedy families mentioned in early records are still represented in the present church in 1978.

The pastoral services of the Rev. Mr. Finlay were followed by those of the Rev. W. F. Gold of the Presbyterian Church until the arrival of the Rev. A. B. Argue who participated in the 'exodus' when the Canadian Northern Railway, in 1905, by-passed the little hamlet of Vegreville by five miles and every movable building was hauled by horses to its present location. Here a small white church and smaller parsonage awaited them. Mrs. Argue, sixty years later, recalled how she and her husband arrived by horse and buggy but the wagon containing their bed and household effects had been 'bogged down' and they slept the first night on the bare floor.

Sunday Schools were organized in each appointment and by 1908, as proven by an old photo, over one hundred pupils attended Rally Day at the Vegreville Methodist Sunday School. Mr. Campion was a much loved and enthusiastic Superintendent, followed by Dr. A. H. Goodwin who served for some years in that capacity.

Miss Ada I. Wright, Vegreville's first teacher, organized the Epworth League, a young people's group found in most Methodist Churches. A Junior League was formed for the sub-teens and met after school once a week.

On March 12th, 1906, seven women organized the Ladies' Aid. A complete set of Minute Books trace the history of that organization which evolved into the Women's Association in the '50's to be followed in January 1962 by the present United Church Women which combined the W.M.S. and W.A. and continued as a vital force in the life of the church.

That first little church and parsonage became a centre of activity for a devoted group of women whose pioneer spirit and loyalty to their church never wavered. With 'socials', plays, concerts, bazaars, suppers, bake sales and 'talent money' . . . working under conditions which might well daunt the women of today, they furnished the church and parsonage, raised money for fuel and lighting, and struggled to pay the mortgage. When funds ran low and the Church Board was unable to pay the minister's salary, they could always be relied upon for a sizeable donation even when, as the Minute Books reveal, it was raised by 'private arrangement among the ladies'.

They visited the sick and sorrowing, they fed and



The United Sunday School Picnic, July 1, 1915, at Exhibition grounds.

clothed the needy and welcomed the strangers in their midst for with the influx of new settlers, there was great scope for their endeavours. The United Church Women of today have inherited a great tradition of service and are still living up to it.

Items in the first Minute Book of the Official Board indicate the Minister's salary to be in the neighborhood of \$500.00 rising eventually to a maximum of \$900.00, plus \$75.00 'horse keep'. The Rev. W. K. Allen who succeeded Mr. Argue, had his salary raised to \$1000.00 with 'horse allowance' of \$100.00 only to be reduced the following year to \$75.00 again, leading one to assume that the price of oats had gone down (?). One item authorizes payment of \$4.00 for a load of hay. Payment for a load of wood was also approved. An inventory of church property appraised the parsonage at \$650.00, Barn \$25.00.

Meanwhile a Presbyterian Church had been built, with the Rev. W. F. Gold as minister. Following the eventual Church Union the original building, after undergoing extensive reconstruction, became a duplex, now owned by Miss Verda Dean.

A Presbyterian Mission Hospital the 'Roland M. Boswell', more familiarly known as the 'R.M.B.' was opened in 1906 and remained in operation until 1937. Dr. George Arthur, a medical missionary was Superintendent.

Meanwhile the Sisters of Charity had opened a hospital so the R.M.B. was closed and all movable equipment shipped to the new frontier hospital in Rocky Mountain House.

As early as 1914 there was a growing feeling that the common interests and beliefs of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches were greater than the dif-

ferences that divided them and, after much discussion, the decision was made to form a Union Church of Vegreville. This pre-dated the eventual Church Union across Canada in 1925 by eleven years. The vote to unite was not unanimous and for a few years a fragmented group of Presbyterians continued to hold services independently.

The outbreak of World War 1 brought about changes such as those affecting families and congregations everywhere and several sons and husbands from that congregation paid the supreme sacrifice.

After the war ended a large Memorial Window was placed on the north wall and was perpetually lighted. World War II also took its toll and touched the lives of many families.

Up to this point considerable attention has been given to details to point up the contrast between pioneer conditions and those of today. The following



Chancel of the old United Church, Vegreville, 1960.



Presbyterian Church, about 1920.



The Vegreville United Church was located for many years where the A.G.T. building now stands on 51st Ave. The front extension was constructed by Ed. Eickmeyer as designed by son Bill, 1960.

paragraphs have been abridged in the interest of brevity, covering as they do a space of over 60 years. Notable changes in the original church building took place in 1928 when a basement was placed under-

neath and the south end of the building was enlarged. In 1955 a front portion and offices were added.

In 1960 the chancel was remodelled to accommodate a beautiful Memorial Window in memory of the following, as a gift from their families: John Barclay Hurlburt, who was killed in World War II; Silas Argue Richardson and his wife Emma, who were pioneer members of the church; also Dr. R. M. Reid and his wife Laura, both of whom were active in the life of the church.

The dedication of the Memorial Window was followed by that of the Memorial Organ presented in memory of Albert Winburn Fraser who was chairman of the Finance Committee for a number of years, also Charles Edward Shaw and his wife Elizabeth who served their church with true devotion.

After years of renting accommodation for the ministers and their families, a comfortable Manse was built in 1951 and is kept in good repair.

With due regard for its humble origin in 1901, the congregation of Vegreville United held a commemorative service in November 1961. Special guest for that occasion was the Rev. C. F. Johnston of St. Stephen's College. He was introduced by the resident minister, the Rev. C. B. Hickman.

The 60th Anniversary of women's work in the church was appropriately observed in 1966 with a pageant entitled 'This Hour Has Sixty Years', an evening of nostalgic celebration followed by a church service next morning. Mrs. D. K. McElroy was guest speaker.

Salem Reformed Church, in a rural community south of Vegreville, applied in 1961 to become part of the Vegreville Pastoral Charge. They were heartily welcomed and have become a valuable asset to the Christian fellowship shared by this congregation. A summer student lives at Salem and gives valuable assistance to our minister during that season.

In former years Mundare had been a part of the Vegreville Pastoral Charge, as were Lavoy, but time brings changes and now only Salem and Ranfurly remain. Park Grove also was included in this Pastoral Charge until the death of Dr. Armstrong in 1944.

Centennial Year, 1967, so memorable for all Canadians, was duly observed here in June in a special service at which Rev. Lindsay Vogun was guest speaker. As a Centennial Project funds were raised to purchase a piano and other furnishings for the Mission at Goodfish Lake.

Probably 1969 was the most outstanding year in our church's history when it became necessary to vacate the old building and move to a new church home. The Alberta Government Telephones required space to expand their facilities and had purchased the original property for \$90,000.00. A new site was

selected, a contract let, and on Sunday November 17th, the new church was formally opened and dedicated. An impressive ceremonial procession was led by the minister, Rev. H. J. Miller, together with the church officers and included numerous dignitaries representing various faiths in the Vegreville community, visiting clergymen from St. Stephen's College, representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments and the Town Council.

A new Communion Table in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cole, a Baptismal Font in memory of James and Sheila Richmond, a Pulpit Bible in memory of Dr. L. M. Edmunds, a new Pulpit from the Giebelhaus family, a matching Chair in honour of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Eickmeyer, Fern Stands in memory of George Johnson and Mark Atkinson and new Collection Plates, were accepted and dedicated.

The Memorial Windows had been incorporated into the new building, together with our memorial furnishings including the Memorial Cross in memory of 'Aunt Fanny' (Mrs. K. I. Ferguson), and the Communion Chalice marking 60 years of women's work in the church, also Memorial Light Fixtures in memory of Thelma Ziegler.

Financing for the new building was achieved by a debenture plan which has proven successful to date and reaches maturity May 1st 1981, yielding \$50,-000.00.

On October 24th, 1971 Congregations from Ranfurly and Salem joined with that of Vegreville United to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the original Methodist Mission from which our church evolved. The Rev. Hart Cantelon, a former minister, was welcomed back as guest for the occasion.

Another Anniversary was observed in 1975 to commemorate church union which had united Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches across Canada. CBC-TV presented an impressive program on the national network. It was celebrated in Vegreville United Church by a special service on

June 8th at which the Rev. Dr. W. E. Mullen was guest minister, to celebrate 50 years of Union.

On October 30th, 1976 the 75th Anniversary was a happy occasion which filled the church to capacity. Rev. Dr. Charles Hickman delivered the Anniversary sermon. A most impressive feature of the celebration was a reunion of choir members held in the Masonic Hall the preceding evening, based on the theme 'Singing For Joy'.

The congregation has always felt a deep debt of gratitude and appreciation to the choirs which have contributed so much to the spirit of worship.

Choir leaders whose names come to mind are Mr. Ed. Mylrea, Dr. Atkinson, Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. W. I. Clements, Mrs. Margaret Laing, Mrs. Margaret Shaw, Mrs. Vi Johnston, Mrs. Verna Nicholson and the present leader, Mrs. Li Giebelhaus. Leaders of Junior Choirs are fondly remembered for their fine work with young voices. Mrs. Terry Kubin is presently giving inspired leadership in that capacity.

The various anniversaries included in this record serve as milestones in our church's history. Each one has been a happy occasion with the return of former ministers and friends, renewing old friendships and reviewing the progress of our church.

The Presbytery Camp at Lake Whitney receives financial support and leaders during vacation time. An earlier camping experience occurred in the 'mid-forties' when the Rev. Hart Cantelon organized an ambitious project by which seventy or eighty young people and leaders were transported by truck and cars to Lake Edith in Jasper Park for an eight-day outing. This was an annual event for three or four years and a memorable experience for all who participated.

The Sunday School is served by a dedicated group of teachers who are finding that the changing life-style of the parents and the various counter-attractions and distractions are making inroads on the attendance rolls. The Sunday School supports an adopted child in India.

Many youth groups have come and gone in the course of years but at present the only one which survives is the C.G.I.T. (Canadian Girls In Training) which functions on an ecumenical basis.

There are two United Church Women groups, afternoon and evening, and a busier organization would be hard to find. An excellent spirit of co-operation and fellowship prevails.

The Christian Education Committee, together with all the customary branches of the church complex, have a common ideal of service which is only realized when the Annual Reports are received.

The following ministers have served in this pastorate:



A recent picture of the new United Church, 1979.

Methodist Church — Revs. R. E. Finlay, A. B. Argue, D. K. Allen, L. R. McDonald, G. D. Armstrong, G. G. Webber, O. R. Mann, W. J. Hughes.

Presbyterian Church — Revs. W. F. Gold, G. R. Lang, Dr. George Arthur, Superintendent of Home Missions.

Union Church — (1914-1915) Revs. W. H. Hughes, A. R. Schrag.

United Church of Canada — Revs. A. R. Schrag, S. R. Irving, Dr. G. D. Armstrong, H. A. Cantelon, M. Sutherland, W. E. Mullen, G. B. Mather, T. E. Thomas, C. B. Hickman, H. J. Miller, and the present incumbent, the Rev. A. Robert Seal.

The present large and modern building, so beautifully designed and so practical for all church activities, is a far cry from the original one built in 1905.

The current budget of about \$40,000.00 makes no provision for 'horse keep, but a travel allowance is provided. Whether our spiritual growth has kept pace with the physical development of our place of worship must be left to the judgment of a Higher Power.

The foregoing 'Outline of History' was compiled by Irene Shaw at the request of Session and is respectfully submitted, June, 1978.

Anglican Church of St. Mary the Virgin — 1900 to 1980

by Frances M. Gafka

Our church began in this area in 1900, with the services of an itinerant priest travelling out of Innisfail. His name was the Rev. Gerald Card and he eventually became the resident Rector of St. Mary's in 1903, when he took up a homestead south of the Village of Lavoy until a Rectory was built in the new town of Vegreville in 1909, costing the Parish \$1,-000.00.

One of the earliest members of the Parish recalls Mr. Card arriving at their home on a bitter evening in 1905, with a team and buckboard, and announcing to them that a service would be held every other month at Morrison and Walker's Sheep Ranch at Beaver Lake. The family concerned were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams, who became major supporters of, and workers for, St. Mary's, and whose efforts were continued in later years by their son, Walter Adams, to whose work in 1960 much of the information contained in this history is owed. Mr. Harry Meredith, a Veteran of the Boer War, Real Estate Agent and homesteader in the Lavoy area, became the first Rector's Warden in about 1902.

Mr. Card held Services in the Imperial District Schoolhouse until the Town of Vegreville was moved to its present location, and then services were held in



Mr. Joseph Adams — arrived in Beaver Lake District 1905. Organist at St. Mary's Anglican Church for 28 years.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson and Miss Nellie Wilson. Mr. Wilson was Town Secretary for Vegreville 1919-1922. Miss Nellie Wilson was Postmistress in 1920-21 and resigned on her marriage. The post office was then in the Legion Block, where Dr. Starko has his office.

various homes and stores in town. The only two places of which we have a record are L. Gully & Co., Hardware merchants which stood on the site of the present Vegreville Sports World; and Clute and Walker's Furniture Store and Funeral Parlours, on the site of the present King Drug Store.

Mr. Card seems to have had his own methods of getting necessary work done and paid for, as a story is recorded of a time in 1907 when he asked the men of the congregation to fence the lot around the newly

constructed Church and Rectory, and when the work was finished, asked the volunteer workers for contributions to pay for the wire used!

The plans for the Church were drawn up by Mr. Reg Parker who worked for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, and the Church was largely built by volunteer "white collar workers" who demonstrated their inexperience, and the Church was too small, too high, and very cold, and they were unable to complete the building as planned, because they ran out of money; however, the Church was completed in October, 1906.

The Church was dedicated on November 10, 1907, by Bishop Pinkham of the Calgary Diocese, assisted by Archdeacon H. Allen Gray, who later became the first Bishop of the new Diocese of Edmonton in 1916. Records show that, in addition to the Service of Dedication, Bishop Pinkham also bap-

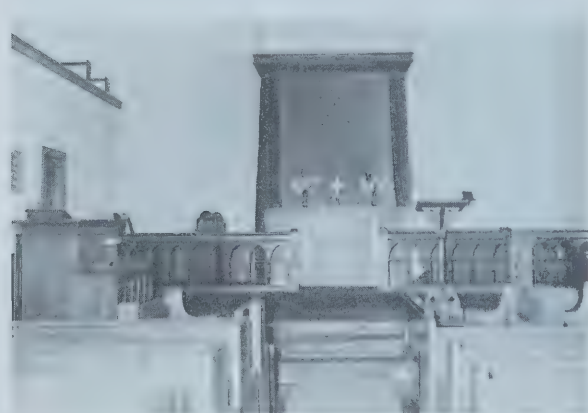
tized two children, Alberta Fenton Jones and William George Lacey. Tradition has it, however, that the first child to be baptized in the font was Katie Card, daughter of the Rector. This beautiful font was hand-carved by Mr. Tom Ashley of Ashmont, and presented to the Church in 1906. It is still in use today.



Rev. Charles Wolff with his bride, the former Miss Marie Bou-tillier, November 10, 1935. Mr. Wolff is, to date, the only resident priest to be married in St. Mary's.



The second St. Mary's Anglican church, built by the Baptist church, sold to the Presbyterian Church and bought by St Mary's in 1945. Demolished in 1959 to make way for the Professional Building.



Interior of the second St. Mary's Anglican Church, 1945, showing the pulpit, lectern, altar, altar rails, sanctuary chairs and altar linens, cross, candlesticks and vases, all of which were donations or memorial gifts to the church.

The Church furniture and fittings were mainly donations, and most of these are still in use. The present Pulpit and Sanctuary chairs were designed by Miss Tessie Bremner; built in Charlie Gordon's factory by a Mr. Strech and given as a gift from the Sunday School in 1914. The first service for which they were used was January 4, 1914. Miss Bremner was the Sunday School Superintendent.

The Lectern was given in 1910 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson and Nellie. Mr. Frank Wilson was the Town Secretary, and Miss Nellie Wilson was the Postmistress. The Post Office was then located in the Wener (now Legion) Block, in the portion now occupied by Dr. Starko.

The first organ was a very small instrument which belonged to Miss Katie Card, and the first Organist was Mr. Joseph Adams, who continued in the work for twenty-eight years. Mr. George Kuwata served as organist for approximately the same length of time, but it is not known where the second organ came from. It is believed that it was a gift, but the date and donor's name are not recorded.

The Rectory was built in 1909, largely by volunteers from the congregation, with some additions in later years, and is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kinnie.

Mr. Card left Vegreville for Fort Simpson in 1911, and was succeeded by the Rev. R. A. Burge, then a Deacon, with the Rev. W. B. Farnham making periodic trips to administer Holy Communion to the members of the Congregation. While Mr. Burge was here, the Holy Trinity Church at Soda Lake was built by the Boutillier family in a corner of their land. This tiny Church was still in use in the late 1960's, but was later vandalized, someone stealing the stained glass window from above the Altar, and was later moved

from the site by the Diocese, and is now in Fort Saskatchewan Park.

Mr. Burge left in 1913, having married the daughter of one of the parishioners — the lady's name is not known.

He was succeeded by the Rev. Gerald McComas, who remained until 1915. Mr. McComas married during his stay here. The lady was Miss Netta Fane, daughter of Major and Mrs. F. W. W. Fane and sister to Major Frank Fane who, with his wife and family were great supporters of St. Mary's. The senior Mrs. Fane was the first white woman in the Beaver Lake District.

In 1915, the Rev. A. P. Carter took over for a short time. During his term here Bishop Allen Gray consecrated Holy Trinity at Soda Lake. Mr. Carter left in December 1915 and the Parish was without a Minister until April 1916 when the Rev. W. W. Alexander took charge. His Parish included Wattsford (Now Whitford), Beaver Lake, Innisfree, Lake Alice, Percy Lake, Soda Lake and Vegreville. During his ministry here, the debt on the rectory was cleared by the Women's Auxiliary; an altar cloth and a set of Communion vessels provided for Soda Lake, and a series of missions started at Wolie, Innisfree, Lake Alice and Percy Lake, and a handsome Church was built in Lavoy at a cost of \$1400.00.

Wolie, Lake Alice and Percy Lake were school districts, Wolie being in the present County of Two Hills; Lake Alice and Percy Lake being in the present County of Minburn. Presumably, service was held periodically in each school, although we have no written record to that effect.

Mr. Alexander left in 1918, and the Parish was without a priest, and only two or three services were held until the Rev. W. H. Morgan arrived in August, 1919. During his ministry, the Churches at Lavoy, Soda Lake and Vegreville contributed to the purchase of a car for the use of the priest in his travels. No record exists as to what kind of car, but it was probably a very great improvement from the saddle or buggy.

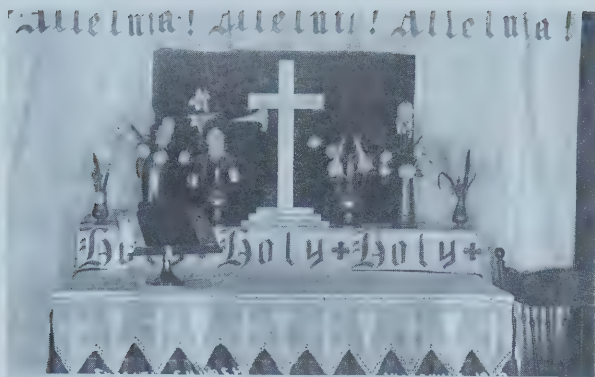
St. John's Church in Lavoy was given a beautiful stained glass window by the Duffy family in memory of their son who was killed in Flanders. The window depicts David, with his slingshot, going to fight Goliath and bears the inscription "In loving memory of Pvt. Hilliard W. Duffy 31st Bn. Born 1896. Killed at Vimy Ridge April 9, 1917 while in charge of a machine gun".

At the bottom of the picture, and above the inscription is this quotation — "David hastened and ran towards the army to meet the Philistine".

This window was removed from St. John's when the congregation there became too small to justify



The Anglican Church Sunday School, 1916. Back row (l. to r.) — ?, ?, Ruth Long — teacher, Pearl Erickson, Carl Fraser, ?, Arthur Nicholson, Jim Long. Middle row — Murtle Erickson, May Stevens, John Nicholson, Reg Moody, ?, Bill Nicholson. Front row — Frances Norway, Vi Hayter, ?, Iris Hayter, Ron Moody.



Vegreville English Church, 1915. Altar cloth made by Ada Brittian, Mrs. Worth's sister.

keeping the Church open, and was stored in Edmonton until the present St. Mary's was built, when it was placed in the South wall of the Church.

Mr. Morgan resigned in June, 1923, and was immediately replaced by the Rev. E. H. Baker. Records show that the Rectory was connected to the town water supply about this time, and that in 1926 the congregations of Vegreville and Lavoy bought a new car for the Rector! No record shows if this replaced the car bought in 1919, but if it did, it was probably very badly needed by 1926.

Mr. Baker remained here until December, 1927 and the Rev. Andrew Love took over in January, 1928. Some repairs to the Rectory, and the construction of a veranda are reported in this period, also the replacement of the chairs in St. Mary's with pews, with acknowledgment of the efforts of Mrs. B. P. Hinde and Mrs. R. V. Patterson in completing this project. About the same time, a Junior choir was organized under the leadership of Mrs. A. W. Shawn and Mrs. R. V. Patterson. This choir robed for their first service for Easter Sunday 1932. It is also noted that the parish car was purchased by the Rector from the vestry for the sum of \$100.00.

Mr. Love resigned in September, 1933, and Mr. T. M. Bennett our Lay Reader took the Services until the Rev. Charles Wolff took over in January, 1934. During this month, the senior choir was organized and psalters were purchased. Incidentally, those psalters are still in existence, and are sometimes still used!

Mention must be made of the long and devoted service of Mr. Bennett, the first Lay Reader of St. Mary's, without whom the Church would not have been able to survive in the sometimes long intervals between resident Priests. He is noted in the minutes of the Diosecan Synod of 1931 as a licensed Lay Reader, and was probably licensed in 1929, and he was still an official Lay Reader at the time of his passing in 1968, although he had not acted in that

capacity for some time previous to his death. "Beaver" as he was affectionately known, was not only a devoted member of the Church, but was known far and wide for his work with the Boy Scouts.

On April 24, 1935, Mr. Wolff was ordained by Bishop Burgett of Edmonton; this was the first Service of Ordination to be held in St. Mary's. In November of the same year, the Chancel of St. Mary's was enlarged to make room for choir stalls. While this renovation was being made, Mr. Jack Moss of the Alberta Hotel lent the sample room in the hotel for the use of St. Mary's for Sunday Services. Funds for these renovations were raised by the St. Mary's Players and other members of the congregation.

St. Mary's Players were a group of members of the congregation who put on plays for the purpose of raising funds. Prominent in this group were Mr. David Brown, Miss Margaret Shaw, Mrs. Frances Dunn and many more.

Mr. Wolff was ordained in January, 1935 in All Saints Cathedral in Edmonton, and later married Miss Marie Boutillier, daughter of Mr. A. M. Boutillier of Soda Lake, on November 10, 1935, and was, to date, the only resident priest to be married in St. Mary's.

Mr. Wolff left in 1937 and was replaced by the Rev. C. G. Austin, an elderly priest nearing retirement. Mr. Austin retired in 1939, and the parish was taken over by supply priests, among whom were The Rev. S. J. Bell; the Rev. H. W. Buchner; the Rev. V. F. Cole, and others of whom we have no record.

During these years the parish depended very much on the services of our Lay Reader, Mr. T. M. Bennett, who faithfully conducted services each Sunday when we had no priest, so that not only would there be Divine Service, but also that the Fire Insurance covering the building could not be cancelled by the Company, as, at that time, unless a weekly service was held, the Insurance Company would not honour the policy should a fire occur!

During this period, St. John's Church in Lavoy was sold to Paul and Mary Semeniuk of Lavoy for the sum of \$500.00 — date of the transfer of title August 31, 1943. With these funds, the exterior of St. Mary's was painted. In August of 1944, the little Rectory was sold for the sum of \$1000.00, and plans were to buy a new Rectory later. In fact, it was much later, as St. Mary's did not have another Rectory until 1979.

Some time in 1945, the first church was sold, and the second St. Mary's was bought for the sum of \$4,000.00 from the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, who were no longer using the building, as their congregation had been amalgamated with the



December 6, 1959. Blessing of the site of the present St. Mary's Anglican Church by the Most Reverend Archbishop Howard Clark, Primate of All Canada, with Rev. H. C. Morton assisting and members of the congregation. Among those shown are (l. to r.) — Major Frank Fane, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Cosh, Mrs. Jonas, Mrs. John Nicholson, Mrs. Vera Turner, Mrs. Lillian Lindley, Mr. Jonas, Mr. Tommy Heath, Mr. John Sprigings, Mrs. Heath, Wendy Heath, Mr. Stewart, unknown, Mrs. Helen Littlechild, Walter Richardson.



Choir of Anglican Church, approx. 1935. Back row (l. to r.) — Peggy Hayter, (Tetreau), Peggy Rice (Atcheson), Margaret Long, unknown. Front row (l. to r.) — Betty Richards (Ward), Helen Fitzallen, unknown, Nellie Richards (Dumont).

United Church of Canada. After the amalgamation, the church fixtures and fittings were bought from the Presbyterians by the Elders of the Brush Hill German Reformed Church, many of which still remain, in spite of the theft a few years ago of the organ, organ stool, collection plates and any other saleable items.

The Church building was in a bad state of repair, having stood empty for some time, and furious activity ensued to put it into a fit condition for services.

In 1947 the Rev. Harry Brant came to take over as resident priest, and we again had regular services, a Sunday School, and a Choir. The St. Mary's Players were revived and functioned for two or three years. One notable memory is their presentation of Noel Coward's play "Blithe Spirit" — a most hilarious comedy.

Mr. Brant married while he was here, and left us in May 1950 to take a charge with the Episcopalian Church in New Jersey, U.S.A.

The Rev. A. P. Venables filled the vacancy in June 1950 and remained here until May 1952. Upon his departure, the Parish was once again served by priests travelling out to us, this time from St. Saviour's Mission in Fort Saskatchewan. These included the Rev. A. Hooper; the Rev. H. McDonald and the Rev. R. Sayer.

In November, 1953 the Rev. W. Crowle took up residence here and remained as Parish Priest until February, 1956. From February to October, 1956 the Rev. A. F. Heron served us as an itinerant priest covering also Ashmont and Saddle Lake Indian Reserve. In October he moved to Vegreville, and in November a re-organization of parish boundaries also put the care of Viking-Rodino in his hands,

composing the parish of Vegreville-Viking. This covered Vegreville, Brosseau, Soda Lake, Whitford, Viking, Rodino, Ashmont and Saddle Lake. What a good thing the poor man had a car instead of a saddle horse or buggy!

Mr. Heron resigned in 1958, and the Rev. C. C. McPherson took over the task, bringing Communion regularly, and depending greatly on Mr. Bennett as Lay Reader to take the intervening services.

In July, 1959, the Rev. H. C. Morton arrived here as a Deacon, and was ordained priest later the same year. He was joined by his sister, Miss Mary Morton (always known as Anne) in the following year. During his term here the new St. Mary's was built, the first sod being turned by the Most Reverend Archbishop Howard Clark, Primate of All Canada on Sunday December 6 in 1959.

The new Church was sufficiently finished by September 11, 1960 to permit the A. C. W. to hold their Anniversary Service in the basement. This was their 75th anniversary.

The first Service to be held in the church proper was on September 14, 1960, when it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Gerald Burch of Edmonton.

The Rev. Chris Morton became a very well-known person in this town, and could always be located by the sight of Matilda, his beautiful German Shepherd dog, waiting patiently on the doorstep of whichever building he happened to be in. He took a very active part in the town, being the Legion Chaplain, a member of the Masonic Lodge and an Elk, in addition to his Parish duties. He answered a call to Sedgewick in 1967, and his place was later taken by the Rev. David Prowse. In another parochial re-organization, and because Vegreville no longer had a Rectory, Mr. Prowse lived in Mannville, which had a Rectory, and served Mannville, Vegreville, Soda Lake and Chailey and several other small points. He resigned in April, 1969 to take up missionary work in Venezuela and was replaced by the Rev. Peter Dance in May, 1969. Mr. Dance remained with us until December, 1970, when he was obliged to return to Wales, because of the ill health of his small daughter Heather, who could not tolerate the winter weather in Alberta.

The Rev. Jim Bennett replaced Mr. Dance in March, 1971, but resigned in September, as the expenses of the enlarged parish could not be met. For the following months, until August of 1972, we were again dependent on the services of our Lay Reader, Mr. Lou Kroeger, who had replaced Mr. T. M. Bennett, with the Rev. John Langstone, Archdeacon of Edmonton travelling out every other week to bring us Communion.

In August of 1972, we were delighted to welcome

the Rev. Chris Morton back to Vegreville in the capacity of a "retired" priest. This limited his services to Vegreville alone, and continued until his resignation in December, 1978, due to ill health. Our debt to Mr. Morton can never be repaid, as his services made it possible for us to carry on, and accumulate a bank balance that has enabled us to go forward.

Our present Rector, the Rev. William Brown came to us from the Cathedral in Brandon, Manitoba, and arrived here in April, 1979, and will, we hope, be with us for a long time to come.

Mention has already been made of some of the church furnishings and fittings that have been donated to the church over the years, but mention should be made of the Altar, which was built by Mr. E. Matthews, and was given to the church in memory of the late Mrs. Rita Gordey by the Women's Auxiliary; the W. A. also donated the candlesticks in memory of the late Mrs. Ellen (Charlie) Hayter; the collection plates were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jonas in memory of the late Mrs. Frances (Rod) Dunn, and the Altar Missal was donated by Mr. Dunn in memory of his wife.

The beautiful fretwork carving of the Lord's Prayer that hangs in the Sanctuary was made for the late Mrs. Medland as a wedding present in 1913. She treasured this as long as she lived, and upon her death it passed to the possession of her sister, Mrs. Robert Jonas, and was placed by her in the old church on Main Street. In 1965, the carving was repaired and reframed by the W. A. and still hangs in its place in the Sanctuary.

A hand-written Roll of Honour hangs on the west wall of the church, covering the names of those of the congregation who served in both World Wars. There are twenty-six names, and of these, four were killed in action. This Roll was made and written by the late Mr. Walter Adams, who was one of the most faithful members and supporters of St. Mary's.

St. Mary's also had a church bell in the first church. This, however, had to be removed from the tower, as the construction was not sufficiently sturdy to stand the weight of the bell and the vibration. It was sold, but to whom and when, and where it might be now, is not known.

We of St. Mary's have been helped in all our endeavours with the support of our members, the work of our W. A., and the support of the town and district in any money-making endeavour that we have attempted. Our most grateful thanks go, not only to those of our own congregation who have helped in the past, but to the town and district of Vegreville in general, as without the assistance of those who attended our plays, came to our suppers and teas,

bought our home baking and shortbread, and have generally contributed to the completion of whatever project we were working on, we should not now have the church that we love and are so proud to say is ours.

St. Mary's Women's Auxiliary by Mrs. Gladys (John) Nicholson

The Women's Auxiliary, better known as the W.A., was organized in 1912, with Mrs. Frank Wilson as President. The motto of the W.A. is "The love of Christ constraineth us."

Meetings were held monthly in the homes of members, and the W.A. was responsible for the founding of an Altar Guild to care for the altar furnishings and linens.

Once a year the members sent delegates to the Deanery meetings, which were held in one of the church centres in what was then known as the Vermilion Deanery. After this meeting, there was an annual meeting of all the Deaneries in the Diocese of Edmonton. These meetings were always held in Edmonton and commenced with a Corporate Communion for the W.A. members from across the Diocese. The Bishop was always in attendance and officiated at the Communion. Meetings followed, with reports from the various Deaneries and from the missionaries. Sometimes the missionaries attended in person and spoke of the work they were doing in their various locations. These annual meetings were well attended, and were looked forward to by the W.A. members as this was a time of fellowship and exchanges of ideas with their counterparts in other areas.

One of the most important tasks of the W.A. was the annual "bale". This was made up of new clothing, made by the members, for the Missions. The destination of the "bale" determined what kind of clothing was made to fill the need.

The W.A. also had its "Little Helpers". This was a group of women who had small children. Each child was given a "Mite Box" and pennies were collected during the year and the money was used to help children in distant lands. The mothers would get together during the year for social afternoon teas while the Little Helpers Secretary entertained the children with stories and games.

The W.A. had its own magazine which was called "The Living Message" and which was read by many members. There was also a Sick Committee who sent gifts and visited members when there was a need for help.

The first St. Mary's was heated by a big pot-bellied stove which needed constant attention if the Church was to be kept warm. A janitor was hired by

the W.A. and was paid 75¢ a week in the winter and 50¢ a week in the summer. It wasn't until 1926 that the W.A. had a hot-air furnace installed by Mr. R.P. Spies, at cost of \$285.00.

Every spring and fall, a "Cleaning Bee" was held at the Church and the women came armed with pails, mops, brooms and dusters, having a busy, but friendly time working together. The men of the congregation would help with the kalsomining of the walls both in the Church and the Vicarage.

The W.A. were always busy with projects of one kind or another in order to raise funds. They held home bake sales, apron sales, bazaars, teas, card parties, and dances; sold subscriptions to McCall's Magazine; and held a pancake supper in the spring and a fowl supper in the fall.

In the early 1920s a pancake supper was held, and the menu read like this: 4 Pancakes with Maple Syrup OR Brown Sugar and Lemon

Tea or Coffee

Price 25¢ per person

Dances and Whist Drives combined were put on by the Vestry, and the W.A. served the lunch. Admission was 75¢ per couple.

Sunday School Christmas Parties were always one of the highlights of the year, as the whole family could go together. One that was remembered for many years was held in the Dobbins (now Legion) Hall in 1915 with a large group of children. After the games had all been played, the children sat around in a large circle on the floor, and sang Carols, ending up with "Jingle Bells". As the last notes died away, sleigh bells could be heard in the distance and as they



St. Mary's Anglican W.A. at a spring cleaning bee in 1928. Included in this picture are Mrs. Mary Hayter — third from the left in the back row, Mrs. Ralph Patterson at the right hand end of the back row, Mrs. Swarbrick — second from the right in the middle row, Mr. Charlie Hayter in the front row. Names of the other members are not known.

came closer, the sound of hoofs could be heard on the roof and then a loud "Whoa there, Dancer and Prancer, stand still, Vixen!" There was complete silence in the Hall as the children listened with all eyes on the roof; then the trap door opened and Santa Claus came floating down to stand in the middle of the circle — his pack on his back. After gasps and Ohs and Ahs had finished, Santa's HO HO HOS got the children around the tree and gifts and candy were given to each child. It was many years later that some of the same children learnt that Mr. Charlie Hayter was the man who had floated down that night!

Madame Leondi, who taught singing in the late 1920s' came down to Vegreville from Edmonton every weekend, and stayed at the Joseph Adams home. From there she taught singing to many Vegreville residents. Every year there was an operetta held in the theatre and the W.A. helped with costumes, stage settings and curtains. Tickets were printed and sold by the W.A. for 50¢ and 75¢ per seat. This performance was always well attended by the public and the receipts were given to the W.A.

For many years there was a Teachers' Dance, and this too was catered by the W.A. Lunch was prepared to feed 200 people, at a cost of \$40.00, with a 20¢ extra charge for each person above the 200. The lunch preparations made for one of these dances show the following provisions purchased: 8 sandwich loaves

8 lbs. ham

5 lbs. butter

4 quarts cream

¼ lb. mustard

Total cost - \$14.25.

In the early 1920s the School Fairs were very popular. These were held at the Fair Grounds and the W.A. served lunch, as well as candy bars and ice cream. There was never any ice cream left over!

At Easter time in those early days a plant sale was held in an empty store on Main Street. Around 1928 Mr. Joseph Adams, who had a greenhouse at the back of his home at 5122-50 Avenue, arranged with the W.A. to sell his plants while they sold cut-flowers and baking. Orders were taken in advance for the flowers by canvassing the town. On the Friday before the sale, all plants and flowers had been moved to the store. The weather was mild and sunny that day, but during the night a storm got up out of the north-west with snow and high winds, and when Mr. Adams went down early the next morning to check on his plants, he found that the front door had been blown open and that everything was frozen stiff. Every flower lover was very disappointed and so were Mr. Adams and the W.A.

In the early 30s, the W.A. collected favourite

recipes and published a Cook Book. They also organized Lenten Teas, which were held in members' homes on every Wednesday during Lent.

During the late 20s, and again in the late 40s, St. Mary's Players put on a series of three-act plays. In the 40s these were held in the Legion Hall for several years. The plays ran for three days at a time, on the weekends; and during the intermissions, Mr. George Kuwata and the Rev. Harry Brant entertained with piano duets, much to the delight of the audiences. We must have had some strong men around to get those pianos up the stairs to the Hall and down again.

Choir gowns were made for the Junior Choir in 1935, and again for the Boys Choir organized by Mr. Barry Sparrow in 1960. These gowns are still in existence but, sadly, unused for lack of a Choir.

In 1967 the name of the Women's Auxiliary was changed by Act of Parliament to the Anglican Church Women and, while the name has been changed, the work remains much the same. We are very grateful to those who went before us for, with their hard work and generosity, they have made possible the lovely little Church in which we work and pray today.

The Brush Hill Evangelical and Reformed Church

by Lillian E. Hohn

In 1900 the first families of the Reformed Church arrived in the Brush Hill District. They left their homeland as land was unavailable and they heard that land in Canada was sold for \$10.00 a quarter-section.

The first settlers held church services in their homes and then in the school which was built in 1905. An organ was donated by the Shaw family.

In 1905 the congregation was officially organized and the first minister, C. F. W. Graeser, came by horse and buggy from Josephburg and held services in the new school.

The Brush Hill members desired to have a church where they could worship. They collected funds and, by contract, Ed. Eickmeyer built the Reformed Church in 1915 for \$250.00. His helpers were Albert Scherbarth, Charles and Henry Querengesser. The church is located on N.E. 10-53-14-W4th.

The land for the church was donated by Jacob (Barn) Hohn. Land for the cemetery was donated by Joseph Mohr. Pews and the organ were bought from the Presbyterian Church in Vegreville, as they had closed.

People came from far and near to hear the opening service and join in the festivities. The first sermon was preached by Pastor C. F. W. Graeser in the German language.

The name "Reformed Church" was used until June 26, 1934, when the Evangelical Synod and the

Reformed Synod united. After that it was known as the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Ottomar Cypris, a student minister, in 1939, formed a Young People's group. Bible studies were held, songs were sung, games were played and several trips were taken to Elk Island Park.

When the children finished their school term, during the summer holidays, German school was taught at the church. The older students studied bible and catechism in preparation for Confirmation Day. On this special occasion the students were questioned by the minister and recited bible texts and the Ten Commandments. They promised before the congregation to live by them. After this the students took their first communion and became members of the church.

In 1955 the Reformed Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The Minister at the time was Henry Roemer and Pastor J. F. Krieger was the guest speaker. The Ladies Aid served a delicious dinner, also lunch after the afternoon service. Alma Hohn was the organist.

The church closed July 29, 1958.

The following are the Ministers that served down through the years. Pastor C. F. W. Graeser — 1905, Pastor A. A. K. Heinemann — 1907, Pastor E. Bruneohler — 1909, Pastor J. K. Mugglin — 1912, Pastor E. Dyken — 1913, Pastor E. Lehrer — 1915, Pastor J. H. Buenzli — 1917, Pastor F. Stuki — 1919, Pastor S. Romeis — 1919, Pastor Jason Hoffman — 1920, Pastor C. H. Reppert — 1921, Pastor P. Sommerlatte — 1922, Pastor C. Weidler — 1922, Pastor G. Gaiser — 1924, Pastor Wilhelm Korn — 1932, Pastor I. Neumann — 1937, Pastor Huer — 1937, Pastor J. F.

Krieger — 1937, Pastor C. H. Reppert — 1937, Pastor Ottamar Cypris — 1939, Pastor Johnston — 1940, Pastor Henry Roemer — 1942-1958.

On July 7 and 8, 1979, the Brush Hill school district held a re-union and a church service was held Sunday morning. The Church was filled to capacity and many people stood outside. Guests and the old-timers of our district were thrilled to attend a service once again. The ministers were Alfred Hosking and Alvin Querengesser, both former students of the Brush Hill school.

It was sad to note that the organ, stove and other furniture of the church were stolen. It is a sad situation indeed when one must steal from a church.

The church still stands as a landmark in the Brush Hill community.

The Brush Hill Ladies' Aid

by Lillian E. Hohn

Mrs. Emil Kowalski organized the Brush Hill Ladies' Aid in 1935. The first meeting was held at her home and she was elected president.

The meetings always began with a scripture reading and the singing of a hymn. If the minister was present, he conducted this short worship service. The roll call and minutes were read and business was discussed. The hostess always had a raffle. Each member paid ten cents for tea and the raffle. In later years the fee was raised to twenty-five cents. The meetings were closed with a prayer and a lovely lunch was served.

In 1937, thirty ladies belonged to the Ladies' Aid. Often the men were there for lunch too, as they stayed or came to take the ladies home. They usually visited in the kitchen while the meeting was in progress.

One day while the meeting was in progress one member's husband came into the house lugging a big round baking dish full of bread dough. The bread was put into pans and baked. This lady was a very good member and would not miss a meeting.

The ladies were hard workers. Flowers and fruit were sent to the sick. Together, they cleaned the church and cemetery. They had quilting bees, bake sales, a yearly picnic, a bazaar and chicken supper.

During the war years they baked fruit cakes, cookies, bought razor blades, shaving cream, chocolate bars, and knit socks. With these articles they made parcels and sent them overseas to the men from the district who were serving in the army. Money was also donated to the Red Cross.

The Ladies' Aid held their annual picnic on the Philip Gafka farm. There were all kinds of races, a cracker-eating contest and a fish pond for the chil-



The Brush Hill Evangelical and Reformed Church, built 1915.



Brush Hill Ladies' Aid, 1937. Top row (l. to r.) — Mrs. E. Kowalski, Mrs. J. Gafka, Mrs. F. Kelloran, Mrs. J. Mohr, Mrs. G. Hohn, Elinore Hohn, Dorothy Gafka, Margaret Hohn, Enid Lank, Minnie Gafka, Ruth Wagner. Third row — Mrs. C. Hohn, Mrs. E. Wagner, Mrs. J. Merkel, unknown, Mrs. P. Mohr, Mrs. P. Gafka, Mrs. C. Hohn, Mrs. Weidler, Mrs. George Carter, Mrs. P. Hohn, Mrs. J. Hohn, Mrs. F. Emery, Mrs. K. Steinbach. Seated — Grandma Bednel, Mrs. Mohr, Mrs. Gafka, Mrs. Hohn. Front row — Lillian Steinbach, Gladys Gafka, Elsie Hohn, Miss Weidler, Louise Emery, Elsie Gafka, Opal Emery, Ruby Gafka, Miss Weidler, Helen Hohn.

dren. Baseball and softball were played against Vegreville and other districts. The ladies had a quilt raffle. Long tables were set near the trees and a delicious cold chicken and salad supper was served. In 1945, coffee, ice cream, pop, and chocolate bars were five cents each. Hot dogs and pie were ten cents. The picnic was an afternoon and evening of fun for the entire family.

The Brush Hill Ladies' Aid was noted for its chicken suppers which were held in November in the school basement. In 1951, supper cost \$1.00 and one could eat as much as he wished. One day disaster struck. Almost everyone became ill. During the night tummyaches became numerous and the line-up for the little house outside became long. A business man from town boasted about eating a whole chicken with all the trimmings and a pumpkin pie and a half with whipped cream. He became very ill and landed in the hospital with a fever of 105F. We were glad he lived to tell the tale. The women steamed the chicken in a copper boiler to keep it hot and this was supposed to have been to blame for everyone's ill fate.

The bazaar was held upstairs the same time as the chicken supper, and a dance followed. In later years, due to a shortage of help and members moving away from the district, a social evening was held with lunch served and bazaar articles sold by auction. Joe Sokoloski was the auctioneer.

The last Ladies' Aid meeting was held in March, 1959, with eight members present. Ruth Wagner was the president and Mary-Jane Steinbach the secretary. Other members were Mrs. Jacob Hohn, Mrs. Philip Hohn, Mrs. Katie Steinbach, Mrs. Ann Langpap, Mrs. Philip Mohr and Mrs. Clara Lank. With so few members left, it was decided to disband, and a valuable service in the community ceased.

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish by M. Tomyń

The Ukrainian pioneers, having deep religious convictions, were anxious to acquire a place of worship, their own church, even though life was hard and money a scarce commodity.

The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish of



First Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1920. Sold to Warwick Parish in 1947; was struck by lightning and burned down in 1965.



Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Rectory on right, 1976.

Vegreville was organized in 1907, that is, over 70 years ago. Father N. Kryzanowski bought a small Presbyterian Church for \$1000. Vegreville parish collected \$200, the Basilian Fathers of Mundare gave \$300, and the remaining \$500 was a debt shouldered by nine families.

The small church, 26 feet by 36 feet, was located on the hill directly two blocks west of the present church site. The nine members felt that they had achieved an enviable milestone by their acquisition of the church. Masses at that time were held only several times a year.

By 1917 church services were held on a more regular basis, i.e. once a month. A historic event took place with the visit of a bishop for the first time, Bishop N. Budka.

Metropolitan A. Sheptycki, O.S.B.M. visited the parish in 1924.

After having purchased some new land, the parishioners in 1926 moved the little church, by rollers, block and tackle, two blocks downhill east to the

present site. The little church had a tall spire and faced west.

1934 was a significant year: BUC (Brotherhood of Ukrainian Catholics) was organized and the ladies of the parish organized their group called The Ladies of St. Anne. Both of these organizations have played an important role in the parish. The first president of The Ladies of St. Anne was Mrs. C. Yakimischak, wife of Dr. John Yakimischak, who practised in Vegreville in the 1930's and '40's.

At the time when the economic depression was emitting its last gasps, and the murmurings of a possible war were reaching their crescendo, the parish built a parish hall just east of the church. It was a small building 36 feet by 20 feet, but it accommodated another dimension of the parish. The 27 members realized the need of a church choir, and organized one under the capable directorship of Choirmaster John Huzil, who shared his musical talent with the parishioners for approximately 30 years. Recently the Choirmaster has been Jacob Matwiiw.

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (S.S.M.I.) came to serve our parish needs. After purchasing an older but bigger home in 1943, they established a Ukrainian School, attended to the sick and needy, took care of the church sanctuary, taught religion, prepared the first Communicants, and started teaching for the Vegreville Separate School Board. Five years ago the Sisters built a new residence on the site of the former home, i.e. 51 Street and 51 Avenue.

1947 and 1948 were very busy years for the parish. The little church which had served so well for over 35 years was sold to the Warwick parish and construction of a new and bigger church began. Forty members were busy, donating money and labor to the erection of their house of worship. It is sad to note that



Interior of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1978.

in 1965 the little church at Warwick was struck by lightning and burned down.

The year 1951 saw the organization of two other relevant church groups — the Sodality and the Altar Boys. These organizations have been quite active to the present time.

In the 1950's the parishioners were happy to have two masses every Sunday.

Mr. T. Baron, an experienced painter and decorator, completed his painting assignment on the church interior in 1962. The result was an awe-inspiring work of art.

In 1967, for their centennial project, the parishioners built a rectory for the Fathers on the site of the former little parish hall. Today the parish has two halls: a dining hall under the church and a social and educational assembly under the rectory.

The most recent additions to the church were the icons and the church bells. The latter herald pertinent messages all over town.

The whole church complex serves the parish quite admirably. Presently the parish boasts a membership of over 300, being one of the bigger parishes in Vegreville. The parishioners feel that "things are really looking up."

Many young men and women have joined the ranks of the vocation in the service of God and man. As priests and sisters they have dedicated themselves to the various missions connected with the Catholic Church. At least a dozen people from the Vegreville area have served or are serving in the vocations, involved in pastoral work across Canada. The parishioners of Holy Trinity are very happy and thankful to have had all the services rendered by their good and faithful priests and sisters.

The priests who have served the parish from the beginning to the present are (all O.S.B.M.): N. Kryzanowski, S. Dydyk, P. Bodnar, J. Kaminetsky,



Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish Council, 1979. Front row (l. to r.) — Eugene Pehowich, George Yuskow, Fr. M. Nychka O.S.B.M., Fr. I. Holowaychuk O.S.B.M., Michael Tomy, Nick Zakordonski. Middle row (l. to r.) — Mary Kulmatycki, Mary Hayduk, Lillian Pehowich, George Spak, Alyce Paranich, Anna Bzowy. Back row (l. to r.) — Steve Tarapacki, Terry Yakimyshyn, Paul Charchuk, Nick Yakimyshyn, Henry Sharun, Mike Paranich, John Nowak.

N. Horechko, W. Kaminetsky, M. Romanowich, B. Hrynshyn, M. Gneshko, V. Pidscalny, J. Chimy, B. Dribnenky, A. Wynnyk, D. Weleschuk, W. Shewchuk, M. Nychka, and B. Dribnenky (second appointment). Presently the parish is served by B. Dribnenky O.S.B.M., pastor, and I. Holowaychuk, O.S.B.M., assistant-pastor.

The parish priest is in charge of the parish. The Church Executive, more recently known as the Parish Council, acts as an advisory body.

There have been many Parish Councils to date, too numerous to mention in this treatise.

The 1979 Parish Council members are:

G. Yuskow — President
 G. Spak — Past President
 E. Pehowich — Vice-President
 M. Tomy — Secretary
 N. Zakordonski — Treasurer
 J. Nowak — Assistant Treasurer
 M. Paranich — Director
 S. Tarapacki — Director
 H. Sharun — Director
 Mrs. M. Kulmatycki — President, Ladies of St. Anne
 Mrs. E. Pehowich — Treasurer, Ladies of St. Anne
 N. Yakimyshyn — President, Brotherhood of Ukrainian Catholics
 P. Charchuk — Chairman, Bingo Committee
 Father B. Dribnenky — Priest
 Father I. Holowaychuk — Assistant Priest

Vegreville Ukrainian Catholic Women's League

The Ukrainian Catholic Women's League (U. C. W. L.) in Vegreville started in 1932. The first President was Mrs. Catherine Yakimischak, and secretary Mrs. Olenka Bohaychuk. At that time the parish was very small. At the beginning there were only nine members. Besides the president and secretary there were seven more, Anastazia Zacybida, Anna Kostyniuk, Mary Lemiski, Anna Prestupa, Julia Petaske, Olenka Kubrak, and Anastazia Sysak. Meetings were held in the homes. First meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Mary Lemiski. These members worked very hard. Year by year the membership increased and on December 8, 1948, there were 52 members. At that time the Ukrainian Catholic Women of St. Anne became affiliated with the U. C. W. L. of Canada. The League pays its entitled part of the membership dues to the Provincial U. C. W. L. organization. It sends delegates to congresses and conventions held annually in different provinces. It sponsors financial and volunteer help towards our Ukrainian Catholic church, to upkeep it by having it clean and by beautifying it. Financial help is given for U. C. schools for teaching Ukrainian, for the priesthood, for Ukrainian traditional courses in Ukrainian embroidery, Easter Egg painting, and Ukrainian dancing. Volunteers canvass for the Red Cross, Cancer Drive and C. N. I. B. The League also gives donations to the hospitals and nursing home, takes part in Ukrainian festivals and helps to sponsor the Ukrainian program on radio.

Meetings are held every month to discuss further activities. Every year the members celebrate a U. C. W. L. Day, where they participate in confession and holy communion. They hold bazaars, bake sales and teas. Every year they have a Blessed Easter breakfast. They visit the sick in the hospitals, help to keep church residences clean and put up concerts in honor of the Ukrainian poet, Taras Shewchenko.



The Ladies of St. Anne, of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish, with Fr. Nychka, spiritual advisor for the last eight years, 1979.

At the annual meeting the executive committee is chosen. During the years there were many presidents, secretaries, etc. The first ones were mentioned at the beginning of this article. For 1979, the executive is as follows:

President — Mary Kulmatycki
First Vice-President — Mary Haydyk
Second Vice-President — Alice Paranych
Secretary — Anna Bzowy
Cashier — Lillian Pehowich
League Advisor — Fr. Dribnenky.

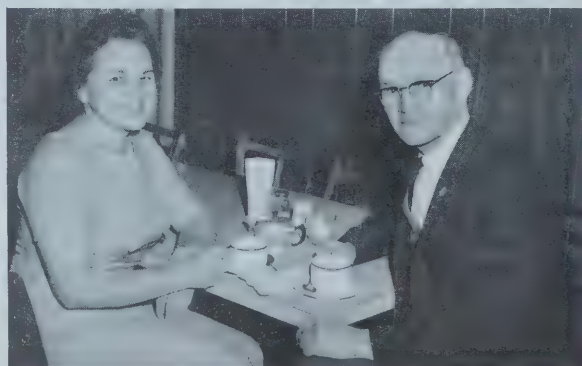
Presently the League has 125 members.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir in Vegreville

by Alex W. Gordey

About the turn of the century the Canadian West had witnessed a great change in the increase of its population and the pattern of its early settlements. It was a rapid and rather dramatic change — from the roaming native population, the explorer, the hunter, the trapper and the missionary in the first half of the 19th century, to the influx of the traders, the ranchers, the farmers, the settlers and the immigrants who came here in large numbers towards the beginning of the 20th century. The arrival of these newcomers in the West began to change the face of the prairies with their homestead farming in small settlements, and some form of organized life in the sparsely scattered communities. They came from Eastern Canada, from the United States, and most of them from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Although each one of these groups has played a very important part in the development of the early settlements and the beginning of the Western Provinces, one of the most interesting and profound changes in these areas was brought about by those thousands of European immigrants who came here in search of a place to start a new life in a new country, a



Mr. and Mrs. Gordey, about 1965. Mr. Gordey was M.L.A. for Vegreville constituency for several terms.

land of opportunity. They had left their homelands for various reasons, and particularly because of many forms of social, religious, economic and political oppressions, or even persecutions.

In the beginning their lot was not an easy one, — not knowing the language, the climatic conditions, the productivity of the soils, nor the laws of the land. Furthermore, many of these people were without any funds or assistance — only their two hands and a strong will-power to persevere. They were certain of one thing, however, that if they had soil to till for their own livelihood and their families, and freedom for their religious, social and economic development, they were going to make it here, in spite of all the pioneering hardships and difficulties. They did. Those hardy and determined people had a strong faith in the future of this country. They have tamed its wilderness, and they were determined to plant their roots deeply into this new soil, raise their families, and set up the new generation for future progress in this land of hope and free enterprise.

These immigrants were composed of many different ethnic groups, but a large percentage of them were of Ukrainian origin. They came here mostly from Western Ukraine, including the province of Bukovina — these lands were then under the domination and oppression of Austria, Russia and Poland. In a rather short time after their settlement, they had broken thousands of acres of land in the Canadian West and turned them into fields of golden grain. They had overcome the language difficulty and in the succeeding years began to establish some form of organized living, such as organizing their church groups, building small churches, establishing school districts, and municipalities; and these were followed by the growth of small business communities, villages and towns.

About 1900 one such starting community was Vegreville — first on the original spot, and in 1905, moved about four miles northeast to its present site so it could be located on the C.N. railway which was then under construction. The surrounding areas about this time were being settled first by a certain number of people coming from eastern Canada and the United States, but a larger number of them were a mixture of ethnic groups arriving here as immigrants from Europe.

As time went on, however, it appears that the number of Ukrainian settlers in this area seemed to have greatly increased. It also became evident in the years that followed, that these newcomers were not only industrious in farming, but also quite progressive in their religious, educational and cultural thinking.

Although there were missionaries of various re-



Opening of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church, Vegreville, October 28, 1973. In the background is the old church, the photo of which is in London, England. The old church was built in 1934-35, blessed by Archbishop Theodorovich in 1935. Elias Porayko taught the church choir from 1929 to 1935 and was buried from the church July 14, 1941.

ligious sects in those days trying to get them to join their groups, the Ukrainians soon began their own religious organizing, and in a short time small Ukrainian Greek Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic parishes began to appear. At first the Church Services were held in certain homes, but in a short time small Churches were being built here and there in more populated areas. In Vegreville the services were mostly held in a building then named as the Ukrainian Home of Taras Shevchenko, but later renamed the Ukrainian National Hall.

Furthermore, most of the Ukrainian pioneers were farmers, but some were quite capable to take up business as well. A very outstanding business ability was shown by an ambitious small group of businessmen, who in 1910, established in Vegreville one of the largest trading centers at that time; it was called, "The National Co-operative Co. Ltd." This group was headed by two brothers, Mr. Peter Svarich and Mr. Andrew Svarich, of which Andrew later became the general manager. When the company was well established, they sold shares and later opened up six branches in other towns, namely Innisfree, Chipman, Lamont, Andrew, Radway and Smoky Lake. It operated well till the mid-twenties. At this time the C.P.R. railway was built through Willingdon, Two Hills, and other towns north of Vegreville, and the farmers from those areas did not have as much need to use Vegreville as their trading center. In addition to that, the depression years caused this company and many other business ventures at that time, to run into serious financial hardships, and it eventually had to fold up.

Perhaps the most notable feature of their educational and cultural tendencies was reflected in the formation of many school districts in the rural areas and naming them after some well-known places in



The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir in Vegreville, officially opened in 1973. The old church, which was built in 1934, can be seen in the background.

their beloved homeland they left behind. Some very good examples are such old School Districts as: New Kiev, Kolomea, Sich, Zaporozhe, Pruth, Ukraina, Stanislaw, and many such others. By now, sixty-five years later or more, those cherished feelings they had for these names have probably gone away, but to us they still can stand as the quiet reminders of how deeply dedicated these people were to their traditional culture and their heritage. These names will remain as some of their lasting monuments, which they have left behind.

While these school districts were being organized in the rural areas, there were groups and certain professional individuals who were becoming very active organizing various types of educational and cultural clubs and associations in town, particularly for students and younger people. At first one of these associations was named after Myroslaw Sichinsky, but about 1914, when they built their own Hall, they named it the National Hall of Taras Shevchenko.

This National Hall very soon became a very busy and thriving center for all types of work in religious, educational and cultural fields. Besides having classes there for studying in English and Ukrainian, instructions were given to many groups in music, singing, dancing, drama, and many other kinds of activities for the young and the adults. There were also leaders and professional people who were only too glad to offer their services for this cause. There was plenty of ambition among the participants to

work and learn, and everyone seemed to be hoping for greater things to come.

These greater things did come in the near future. As years went by, the Ukrainian element in Vegreville and area began to organize themselves into their respective religious groups and parishes. The Ukrainian Catholics were working on organizing some of their parishes, while the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox were also well on the way to become a strong and enthusiastic religious group. Until this time the Orthodox believers had attended the Church Services in the Church at Sich Kolomea where the Parish was well established by this time, with Reverend Mayba officiating; he was also residing there in the vicinity.

However, time and events did not stand still in those days. Some of the foremost leaders of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox faith felt very strongly that it was time that a Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish be organized in Vegreville. So to this effect they called a meeting March, 1929. They met for this all-important meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pidruchney, and after much deliberation they chose an "Organizational Committee", which was charged with the responsibility of organizing a Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Vegreville.

The following people were elected to this original committee: Mr. Peter Svarich — President, Mr. Wm. Pidruchney — Secretary, Mr. Wm. Kieryluk — Treasurer, and Mrs. Anny Romanchych was chosen to be

an organizer and a Home Economist for the women. This Organizational Committee went about its business quite seriously, so after a few of their own sessions, they called a General Meeting, October 13th, 1929, in the National Hall to officially organize the first Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish in Vegreville.

At this impressive meeting there were eighteen families represented, who also became the founding members of this newly organized Parish. The ultimate purpose of this meeting was very successfully accomplished — the first Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish was organized and the executive was elected also; the members of the executive were: Peter Svarich — President, Wm. Zaruby — Secretary, Wm. Pidruchney — Treasurer, Mike Charuk and Wm. Kieryluk — auditors, and Mrs. Anny Romanchych still remained as an organizer and an assistant for the Women's group. Following are the families who became Chartered Members at this historic meeting: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pidruchney, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kieryluk, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Charuk, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fedorkiw, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Porayko, Mr. and Mrs. A. Maneliuk, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Svarich, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Podealuk, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Svarich, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Lakusta, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Zaruby, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kieryluk, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smook, Mr. and Mrs. E. Zaseybida, Mr. and Mrs. George Shewchuk, Mr. John Romaniuk, Miss H. Romanchych (Mrs. Kowalchuk), Mr. and Mrs. N. Porayko.

Very soon after this important meeting the Women's group was organized as the "Orthodox Women's Association," or "Sisters" as they were often called. This organization was to help with many activities in connection with the new Parish. Church Services were then still accommodated in the National Hall, and that arrangement was to continue for the next four or five years. The Consistory appointed Rev. Mayba to officiate at our Church Services which he was able to do once a month.

Next year, this newly organized Parish decided to have their first visitation of the Bishop. For this historic occasion they invited Archbishop I. Teodorowich from New York, who accepted the invitation. His visitation took place August, 1930, and that celebration in itself became an outstanding milestone in the early history of this Parish.

As the enthusiasm of the new Parish grew stronger, the membership increased very rapidly. Consequently by about the year of 1933, the parishioners had realized that there was a real necessity to build a Church of their own, and discontinue the use of the National Hall for their religious purposes. Therefore, a number of meetings were held and preparations

were made to build the Church next year or as soon as possible. These were the years of the depression and the funds were not easily available, but nevertheless it was decided to go ahead with the project. Later on, the Building Committee was chosen, and it consisted of the following members: Peter Svarich, M. Zaseybida, Wm. Zaruby, George Fliczuk, Wm. Kieryluk, Rev. O. Straticchuk, and Mrs. K. Zaseybida, who was then the President of the Women's Organization.

The Women's Organization had also become very active with a view of giving all the possible support towards the building of the new Church. At their meeting in May, 1933, the members of the existing Ukrainian Orthodox Ladies Association decided to affiliate themselves with the "Ukrainian Orthodox Women's Association of Canada". At some later meetings their Patron, St. Olga, was agreed upon, and they became fully registered with the National Organization as the — "Ukrainian Orthodox Women's Association of Canada, St. Olga's Branch in Vegreville."

Besides giving all the help they could towards raising a lot of needed funds for the new Church, this new organization undertook to carry out many other types of essential responsibilities in connection with the whole Parish; such as organizing the Sunday School, Ukrainian study classes, helping the Ukrainian Youth Association which was being organized across Canada at that time, and many other such activities, which have generally enlarged the scope of the religious and cultural life in the new Parish, and the community as a whole.

It was in the summer of 1934 that the construction on the new Church began. Mr. John Svarich did the architectural work, while Mr. Harry Osetsky was hired as the chief builder; however, he didn't complete his job so Mr. S. Bellegay finished the construction and the outside finishing. This work was done at a total cost of \$3600.00, but in the years of depression it was a large sum of money, an amount quite difficult for the new Parish to raise.

In the following year (1935) arrangements were made for the consecration of the new building and for this great celebration the Archbishop I. Teodorowich was invited for the second time, and in that Holy Liturgy he was assisted by Rev. Hrytsyna and Rev. Straticchuk. It was a very impressive ceremony and one which the Parishioners of that time long remembered.

It was in the same year that the parishioners at one of their meetings chose St. Vladimir as their Patron Saint, and requested the Consistory to have our Church incorporated as such, and to accept our Parish into the Affiliation of the Ukrainian Greek

Orthodox Churches of Canada. Naturally this was gladly agreed upon by the Consistory in Winnipeg, and since then this Parish is registered as the "Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir" in Vegreville.

In order to make the establishment of the Orthodox Parish complete the members purchased a house in 1937 for the Minister (Priest) so that we could have a resident Minister in Vegreville. This house was sold the following year and a better home was bought for the rectory; the first house cost them \$725.00, but they had to pay \$1375.00 for the next one.

Now that the Parish had a Rectory it still needed a Parish Hall. This step was made by purchasing the hall from the Educational Society of Taras Shevchenko for \$300.00 in 1943. This hall was owned by the mentioned Society for a good many years, but when it got into financial difficulties, it was the right time to purchase this building and it was renamed the Parish National Hall. This building now became not only the center of education and cultural activity, but a place where catering, dances, various banquets and weddings could be held for raising the needed funds to carry out further expansions.

It certainly did not take very long before expansions became quite necessary. In 1944 there was a third Visitation by the Archbishop, and this type of occasion usually brings encouragement to the parishioners, and often to the new members as well; however, it can also bring added expenses to the parish as a whole. Furthermore, it was this year also that the newly purchased rectory had to get considerable renovations inside and out.

By 1948 the members felt that the Church should be painted inside, and the required paintings be done on the walls and the Altar, but good painters were very scarce. It so happened, however, that Mr. Peter Svarich brought a highly skilled professional artist from displaced people in Germany about that time, and he was readily hired for this artistic job. He was Mr. Wadym Dobrolige, (later of Edmonton) and he undertook to do the painting for the amount of \$2,-800.00. This was his first painting job in Canada, and since this highly talented artist passed away later by a rather untimely death, his art work and paintings have become an irreplaceable feature of high value in our Church today.

In 1952 the bell tower was erected with two bells, and the front entrance of the Church was added. With all these ambitious improvements the Church membership has risen also. Whereas it started with fifteen to twenty member families, by 1952 this number had gone up to seventy-five families, and more are added every year.

As the membership was increasing every year, and more and more people were attending the Church and the various functions taking place in the Hall, it became necessary to do some expansion to both of these buildings. The members held a number of meetings to decide these serious issues, and finally it was agreed that the Church building must be expanded in a certain way to make more room inside for the congregation; furthermore, the Hall must be renovated by adding a portion in the front, making more room on the ground floor for the entrance and in the basement for the kitchen. The Ladies Organization needed better kitchen facilities for catering to many functions.

A special meeting was held on March 6, 1955, to approve these two projects which were estimated to cost \$17,000.00. The building committee was chosen of the following members: Peter Svarich, Wm. Pidruchney, Nick Kieryluk, Russell Goshko, P. Tatarchuk, John Shpur, John Maciborksi. The president of the parish was Mr. Fred Muzyka, and Rev. Flack was the Parish Priest at that time. The chief contractor for the work on the Church was to be Mr. Harry Eliuk and Mr. Alex Boyko was hired to work on the renovations on the Hall.

There were considerable building complications in the addition to the Hall, but by the end of 1955 it was completed. The Church was also enlarged by moving the altar portion of the building away from the main building and adding a large new part of the building in between; this was completed in 1956. Both of these projects were satisfactory in their completion, but soon other problems came up.

It became quite evident to all members that as the Parish grows, they need a new Hall. Soon arrangements were made with the Exhibition Association that they could move the old Hall to the Exhibition Grounds and own it in return for giving our Ladies Association the use of the hall as their Diner during the Exhibition days for ten years free of charge. This two-way agreement was quite satisfactory for both parties and the women have always put the money which they made on the catering in the Diner to a very good purpose — there were a lot of bills to pay after these two projects were finished.

The construction of the new Hall did not begin till 1958. The following were chosen for the building committee, and they were to start the project as soon as possible: Steve Pawliuk, Alex Mandruk, and Wm. Pidruchney, with two members from the Women's and CYMK (Youth Group) executive each, and three members from the Church executive. At that time Mr. Jack Yaciuk was the President of the Parish, and the Parish Priest was V. Reverend S. Hrebeniuk. Mr. F. Lemiski was chosen to be the building contractor.

The new Hall was completed very well the same year (1958), and now each group belonging to the Parish tried their very best to work hard and raise enough money to pay all the bills for the construction, renovations and the painting of the Church inside. With this type of motivation within the membership, the hall was paid up in two years, and most of the bills from the previous projects were paid up also.

After these troubled years of financial and physical expansion, the years which followed had witnessed a different kind of growth — it was a growth of human resources mainly. There was a tremendous increase in the general Church membership, the increase in the membership of Women's organization, and of the CYMK (our youth group); the Sunday School classes showed a marked increase, and the Ukrainian classes also.

As the early pioneers and founders of our growing organizations were slowly retiring from their continuous work, worry and responsibilities, the members of the younger generation were stepping in to take their places. The founders, the builders, and the initiators have passed their torch of progress to those who were coming up behind them to take up and carry it on into the future.

During the next twenty years or so that followed there were many new names that appeared on the membership list. Some of these new names became, in the course of time, new leaders, new executives and new workers for the common cause of the Church. Their scope of work now often called them to go beyond the responsibilities within the Parish. From time to time certain members were sent as delegates to Church Sobors in Winnipeg, to the National Conventions of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League, to the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada Conventions, or to the Provincial or National Conventions of the Ukrainian Youth Association — CYMK, where they often held not only the Convention, but sports or dancing competitions and other activities. All these participations beyond the duties within the Parish gave the Ukrainian ethnic element in this community much broader interest in the work of their Church and their culture on the provincial and national fields across Canada.

Of course, time takes its toll in all human endeavours. What was new, glamorous and sufficient in 1934 was getting to be rather old and insufficient thirty-five years later, when we speak of frame buildings. The "New Church" of 1934 was beginning to show bad signs of age by the late sixties and was completely insufficient to accommodate the increasing congregations. By this time our congregation had increased to over 160 families and the parishioners

began to think seriously to plan for a new Church which would accommodate at least over 300 people.

The initial preparation started in 1968 with Magistrate N. Shewchuk being the President, V. Rev. M. Kryschuk the Parish Priest, and an efficient and co-operative executive.

Committees were formed to sell pledges to the parishioners and accept donations. The women's organization had saved up over \$50,000.00 for this purpose, so combining this amount with what was collected, we were able to get a loan from the Treasury Branch to start on the project. The following were chosen to be on the Building Committee: Alex Mandruk — chairman of the Committee, Victor Palahniuk, and later Andrew Lukenchuk — Secretary-Treasurer, Steve Pawliuk, Michael Barlott, Marko Shewchuk, Russell Goshko, Harry Chomik, Jack Yaciuk, Steve Uniat, Mike Bakala, Mike Semeluk, and Alex W. Gordey, who was also President of the Parish at that time.

In their decision the committee felt that this project must start as soon as possible since a year or so later the cost of such a structure would be almost prohibitive for our resources. Mr. Wm. Hnydan and Co. from Edmonton was hired as architect and when the tenders were called, Poole Construction got the bid for a total amount of \$190,000.00, which later with other costs came up to over \$215,000.00

On August 15, 1971, His Excellency Archbishop Andrew of Edmonton, turned the sod and blessed the site where the new Church was to be built; the land for this site was purchased from the town two years before. August 29, 1972 — a special prayer service was observed by the Congregation; and the next day the excavation for the foundation began, and the construction soon started.

This became a winter project, and unusually cold weather, and heavy snowfall presented some difficulties, but with good judgement, patience and hard work on the part of the building committee and the builders, the construction progressed fairly well until it was completed and finished inside as well.

On October 28, 1973, the official opening took place, with His Excellency Archbishop Andrew participating in the Divine Liturgy with the V. Rev. G. Tarzansky, the Parish Priest, and V. Rev. M. Kryschuk, who was now in Edmonton, assisting in this ceremony. Over 500 people, including dignitaries, guests, members and friends attended the opening dinner in the Vegreville Composite High School Auditorium.

It was during the ceremonies of this dinner that the president of our Ladies Organization, Mrs. Pearl Berezan, presented us with a cheque for \$50,000.00 towards our building fund, which had a marked

effect on our success of receiving further donations from the members for this important cause. More than that, it was realistic proof of the tremendous amount of work the women of our parish have been doing throughout the years in the growth and development of the Ukrainian Orthodox community in this area.

The new Church is located immediately south of the old building (52 Street-48th Avenue) and still retains the Patron Saint — St. Vladimir. In the accompanying photo of the opening of the new Church, both Churches are in view. The contrast in their architecture presents a vivid trend in the change of thinking in modern times. In their fair judgement the Building Committee had chosen the plan which would enhance some modernistic architecture, but would still retain some traditional features of the Byzantine and Eastern culture and style of the past; thus linking the past with the present in a somewhat pleasing combination of harmony. The beautiful inside furnishings, the altar, icons, the magnificent chandeliers, vestments, and other decorative items were donated to the Church by some generous individual members of the congregations. By now some outside observers have stated in their appreciation of the new building that it is like a “Little Cathedral” among the churches that they have seen elsewhere.

As it is, more recently, in many other communities, the Church is becoming more and more a kind of central institution, not only for its spiritual and moral work among its faithful, but also a base from which many other relating activities are sponsored, — especially for the children, youth, and the younger generation.

In the case of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish in Vegreville, similar work has been constantly carried on by our Women's Organization with greater or lesser success through the years. They undertook willingly to do more and more of this type of work from the earlier days to the present time. Now, directly or indirectly, they are looking after the growing Sunday School classes, the classes in Ukrainian after the public school hours, with Mrs. Helen Melnychuk and Rev. Puk as teachers, and there's even a class in Ukrainian for the youth and adults directed once a week by our Parish Priest, Rev. Puk. The ladies have sponsored many short courses and instructions in embroidery, Easter Egg writing and colouring, making of Ukrainian costumes for the Ukrainian dancers; encouraging the youth to sing in the young Church Choir, and supporting CYMK — the youth group, in all types of cultural work and activities.

It is very difficult to mention names of all people who cover this type of conscientious work, for surely

some names could be unwillingly overlooked, but anyone who is conscious of her (or his) work in this field can honestly feel that their work is recognized and will not be forgotten in the Parish and in the Community. Such work, it is believed, is like breaking a new field all the time and planting some fine seeds in it; the true results of such work cannot be observed the next day, but in the years to come.

In the last number of years this Parish, together with the Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Vegreville, has given much support to the Ukrainian Pysanka Festival every year since 1974, which is being sponsored by the Vegreville Cultural Association. Especially, they have been giving much help in providing and organizing the cultural folk arts exhibits; and also catering in the traditional and ethnic foods for the thousands of people who attend the Festival. This type of work together with many other types of assistance greatly helps to uphold the Ukrainian image of our Festivals and Ukrainian organizations in this town.

As a colourful culmination of the successful work and progress for the last five decades, the members decided at their meeting February 13, 1979, to celebrate our Golden Jubilee sometime during the year. A resolution towards this effect, moved by John Zalesky and Alex Diachuk, was readily and unanimously approved. The date chosen for this event was June 3, 1979. This was an ideal year for our 50th anniversary because this year was also the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Canada.

For this occasion many Clergy were invited among whom was the Very Rev. Dr. S. Sawchuk, who was the original initiator in the founding of our Church in this country in 1918. Ministers from other Churches were invited, as well as many dignitaries, heads of other local parishes, and guests. Although not all of the Clergy and the guests were able to attend, nevertheless the Church and the banquet hall were filled to capacity. The Divine Liturgy was officiated by Archbishop Boris of Edmonton, assisted by V. Rev. Dr. Sawchuk, and V. Rev. Y Puk, our Parish Priest. V. Rev. Kryschuk, V. Rev. Flack, and Rev. Soroka were also present at this impressive Service; The Church Choir provided the singing under the direction of Mr. Anton Lynkowski.

Very Rev. Dr. Sawchuk was the guest speaker at the banquet, and he gave a very illustrious address depicting many highlights and milestones of our growth and progress till today; it was like unfolding a volume of complete history about the beginnings, survival, hardships and triumphs of our Church in Canada during the past sixty years. Sincere greetings were extended by the Clergy who were present, and

by the heads of the parishes. Many thanks were also extended to the women of our Church for their tireless work and dedication through the years; also to the Presidents and executives, and to many other members who were devoted workers at all times.

Mr. Anton Bialuk, the Historian, from a prepared text, gave a most interesting and detailed history of our Parish from its very beginnings to the present day — pointing out many intense and striking moments in the unfolding development of our religious and cultural life in this large community. It was truly a summary of our work in the past, which could very well point out what should be our direction for the future. Mr. Nestor Baydala, the Parish President, chaired the program for this occasion, and the Choir sang the closing prayer. It was felt by many that this celebration was truly placing a Golden Milestone in our successful work and sacrifice on the Spiritual road in the pursuit of our common cause.

He ended his address by giving the list of names of all the Ministers who served as Parish Priests in this congregation from its very beginning, and of all the heads (presidents) of the Parish Executives from the time it was organized. They were: Rev. Fr. J. Mayba, Rev. Fr. D. F. Stratyckuk, Rev. F. L. Bezezicki, Rev. Fr. A. Sarmatiuk, Rev. Fr. A. Chrystawka, Rev. Fr. E. Ulan, Rev. F. M. Flack, Rev. Fr. S. Hrebeniuk, V. Rev. Fr. M. Kryschuk, V. Rev. Fr. G. Turzansky, and Rev. Fr. Y. Puk.

And the Presidents were: Mr. Peter Svarich, Mr. Wm. Kieryluk, Mr. George Fliczuk, Mr. John Decore, Mr. Wm. Piduchney, Mr. Andrew Svarich, Mr. Fred Muzyka, Mr. Nick Kieryluk, Mr. Jack Yaciuk, Mr. Terry Soldan, Mr. Russell Goshko, Mr. Alex Mandruk, Magistrate Nick Shewchuk, Mr. Alex Seniuk, Mr. Alexander W. Gordey, Mr. Marko Shewchuk, Mr. Nestor Baydala, and Mr. Michael Barlott.

In overviewing this short history of our pioneers in this area, perhaps it was most fitting that the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce chose a Ukrainian Easter Egg — or Pysanka as a monument to the R. C. M. P. on their Centennial Celebrations in 1974. The idea was suggested by a lady Town Councillor, and after some deliberations and hesitations at their following meetings, it was finally accepted. The ultimate result of their decision was the largest Ukrainian Pysanka in the World!

But why Pysanka? many asked, or wished to ask. Even though this question may not have been often directly answered, the idea, nevertheless, has been proven to be the most natural and most logical one. In a district such as Vegreville where so many different ethnic groups, predominantly Ukrainian, pioneered, worked hard, built this area, lived here, and by now

many had passed away — what more suitable monument could have been offered from them to those brave men, the N. W. M. P., who came here first and opened these areas for the settlement and safety of those pioneers? Perhaps this intrinsically beautiful item of their art and culture — with all its meanings, was most likely the best choice.

By now this unique structure which combines modern science and the traditional beauty of culture is known in most countries of the world. In Canada there couldn't be too many Ukrainians who haven't heard about it yet, or who haven't actually turned their way towards Vegreville, in their travels, to see this exquisite piece of beauty from their own culture in the form of a monument to the R.C.M.P.; and which by now must have been photographed over a million times by those interested in its uniqueness, beauty and excellence. On August 2, 1978, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II unveiled a Plaque to commemorate her own visit to this Monument, with the Vegreville Ukrainian School of Dancing providing their special dance item in the program for this great and historic event.

But human history in any phase of life never really comes to a definite conclusion. The dreams and hopes and plans of those early Ukrainian Pioneers will be continued by the succeeding generation — in this area, or wherever they may be living; only they may be working on a different level, and try to achieve the similar goals by some other means. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir in Vegreville, like other Ukrainian parishes and institutions, has a lot of interesting history behind it, but it is hoped that it will continue to look forward to an even greater enrichment of its work in the years to come — in Vegreville as well as in Canada.

The Salem United Church Congregation (1917-1977)

An apocryphal reading states: 'Some there are who have left a name behind them to be commemorated in story', and the history of Salem Church is the story of a people, a congregation, who have left a name and a church behind them.

The early ancestry of the community come from the village of Norka, which is situated on the Volga River in the Province of Saratov, Russia. Their ancestors before them had come to Norka from Hese Germany, during the eighteenth century.

In the years 1893-1894 five families emigrated to the United States of America, and from there to Canada, settling in the Stony Plain district. More land became available in the west, so letters were sent to the homeland encouraging others to come to Canada, and in February of 1899 a further five families

emigrated, arriving in Canada in April of the same year. Being agronomists, they took the opportunity of buying land and opening it up for agriculture. In those days, one hundred and sixty acres of land sold for ten dollars. In 1900-1901, expansion began when six or seven more families arrived and started homesteading at Stony Plain, Duffield, and Vegreville.

The settlement started south of Vegreville was composed of the following people: George Giebelhaus and his two sons, Adam and John G., Philip Albrecht and family, Henry Giebelhaus and family, John Giebelhaus and family, and George Albrecht who later returned to Russia. Further emigrations to the area followed.

These pioneers endured many hardships, and at first were required to work as laborers until they earned or saved enough money to begin farming. In the year 1903 many homesteads were established in the Martin's District. The lumber used for building homes was often hauled in from Edmonton, and sometimes by horse and sleigh, taking a route over Beaver Lake in the winter time. Over the years, ploughs and other machinery were obtained, more land cleared, and the farms gradually became more productive. Berries and other wild fruit were plentiful; these could be picked and sold in order to purchase such staples as sugar. The pioneers were plagued with mosquitos, and prairie fires were an ever-present hazard. There were few fences and so animals ranged unrestricted. Pioneer women worked hard and endured loneliness and trials of many kinds. When ill, no doctor was available, not even to assist in child-birth. The roads for travel were but trails, and at first there was no railway. Not until 1905 was The Canadian Northern Railway put through Vegreville and in 1909 the Grand Trunk Line arrived at Holden.

An important part in the lives of these early settlers was the gathering in different homes to read and study scriptures. These gatherings became the nucleus that formed the Martin's congregation.

A Dr. McQueen of the First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton arranged for a minister, Rev. Vetter, to visit people in Stony Plain. In 1901 Rev. C. F. W. Graeser from Josephburg Reformed Church visited the congregation at Vegreville on a bi-monthly basis.

In the year 1906 he dedicated the Salem cemetery. The property, reckoned to be one to two acres, was donated by Adam Giebelhaus. In between the minister's visits the congregation would continue to meet, often George Giebelhaus would either preach a sermon, or read from a sermon book (a tradition later carried on by Richard Kay and other elders when the church was without a minister). A Sunday School was held for the children, and at night there was



Salem United Church, formerly Salem Reformed Church; Mr. Griffin, student minister, 1971. Location NW 26-50-15-W4.

catechism study. Soon the minister from Josephburg began serving the community once each month, holding the services in private homes or at the school house. On February 18, 1910 the Salem congregation was officially organized.

When Rev. J. H. Buenzli was minister, the congregation unanimously decided to build a church. Two acres of land was purchased for the church site, at eighty dollars per acre. The church was to measure 28' x 40', with a full basement, and with a steeple. Jennings and Skritsmeier were the contractors. In June of 1917 work commenced, on July 1, 1917 at 3:30 p.m. the laying of the cornerstone took place. The new building was given the name of 'Redeemer's Church'. The Official Board consisted of Philip Albrecht and George Giebelhaus as deacons; Conrad



Salem United Church, 1920's.

Albrecht and Richard Kay, as trustees. The cornerstone contains: a history of the founding of the congregation, a church herald, a mission bote messenger, and a Sunday School lesson. At the first the Salem congregation consisted of eleven confirmed members, but by the year 1917, there were already forty-four members.

A well-attended Sunday School and young people's group also existed.

The first confirmation class was held on Palm Sunday, 1918. Included as students were George Albrecht, George Giebelhaus, John C. Giebelhaus, Katie Giebelhaus, Elizabeth Giebelhaus, and Jacob Walker. Another confirmation was held on June 4, 1922. This class included Henry Giebelhaus, Margaret Giebelhaus, Adam Giebelhaus, John Albrecht, Philip Albrecht, Mary Albrecht, Christina Giebelhaus, and Edward Blum.

The first marriage to take place in the church was between George Miller and Anna Giebelhaus on June 28, 1922. The wedding Service was conducted by Rev. C. Weidler. Another marriage of interest was when Henry Roemer and Lydia Giebelhaus exchanged vows on October 18, 1945. The following year Rev. Maurer of Winnipeg, assisted by Rev. J.

Krieger and Mr. Underschultz ordained Rev. Roemer in the Salem Church.

Why the name 'Salem' was chosen is not known, but it seems that the congregation adopted this name from the very beginning, although the church itself was named Redeemer's.

During the years 1947-1948 the parsonage and garage were built and paid for by the members of the congregation. It was dedicated at a special service held on June 20, 1948.

In the same year, January, 1948, the Women's Guild came into being with the motto, 'We are Building'. The charter members were: Mrs. Lydia Roemer, Mrs. Frieda Giebelhaus, Mrs. Marg Giebelhaus, Mrs. Edna Giebelhaus, Mrs. Anna Miller, Mrs. Louise Albrecht, Mrs. Hertha Giebelhaus, Mrs. Esther Giebelhaus, Mrs. Edna Tierney, Mrs. Elizabeth Giebelhaus, Mrs. Margaret Zwierschke, Mrs. Anna Marie Giebelhaus, Mrs. Katherine Giebelhaus, Mrs. Beulah Giebelhaus, Miss Alma Miller, Mrs. Margaret Giebelhaus, Mrs. Amelia Giebelhaus, and Mrs. Zelda Giebelhaus. In 1963 The Women's Guild became known as the United Church Women, or U.C.W.

In 1952 and 1953 an addition of new Sunday School rooms to the church and the installation of electricity in the church and the manse, was undertaken with some financial assistance coming from the Women's Guild.

In the early twenties, and once again in 1955, the Salem congregation was host for the conference of the North Dakota Synod of the Reformed Church.

The Salem Reformed Church became the United Church of Canada in a service of union held on November 1, 1961. This was brought about because several of the American Reformed Churches formed together to form the United Church of Christ. There was a shortage of ministers, and Dr. S. Greene and other officials of the church suggested that Salem congregation join with a Canadian denomination. The service of union was officiated by Rev. J. Short, the chairman of St. Paul Presbytery.

A highlight in Salem's recent history was when they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary on August 27, 1967. Rev. C. Hickman was the pastor of the charge, and Mr. Marvyn Penfound, from Ontario was serving as student minister. Two worship services were held to mark the event, and the guest speakers were Rev. Mervyn Lutes from Edmonton, and Rev. Don Lewis from Sedgewick. Both a junior and a senior choir were in attendance, and between services a dinner was served to all present.

The church officers at the time of the fiftieth anniversary (1967) were the following: Ross Zwierschke and Gordon Miller, as deacons: William



Salem Church, 50th Anniversary 1917-1967. Back row (l. to r.) — Rueben Schwindt, Ezra Eberhardt, John J. Giebelhaus, Ernest Eberhardt, Dan Giebelhaus, unknown, Kenneth Giebelhaus, Dennis Wyllie. Second row (l. to r.) — Andrew Wyllie, Wallace Giebelhaus, Conrad Giebelhaus, George Albrecht, Lloyd Giebelhaus, Sig Mohr, Jake Gafka. Third row (l. to r.) — George J. Giebelhaus, Fred Duke, Marvin Giebelhaus. Fourth row (l. to r.) — Bill Zacharuk, John Drysdale, John D. Giebelhaus, Robert Schultz, John A. Giebelhaus, unknown, Bob Giebelhaus, John Plews, John G. Giebelhaus, Louis Knies, Peter Giebelhaus, Geo. C. Giebelhaus, Francis Everett. Fifth row (l. to r.) — T. A. Liben, Mrs. Liben, Mrs. Everett, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Mina Albrecht, Mrs. Bertha Roberts, Mrs. Duke, Mrs. Florence Giebelhaus, Mrs. John Eberhardt, Mrs. Louis Schindt, Mrs. Mary Giebelhaus (Sunday School Superintendent), Mrs. Katie Giebelhaus, unknown, Mrs. Christine Mohr, Mrs. Louis Knies, Allan James, Allan Christensen, Ron Lowe, Terry James, Mrs. Beulah Giebelhaus, Mrs. Elaine Lowe. (Gowns — Choir members). Sixth row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Margaret Zwierschke, Mrs. Grace Albrecht, Miss Diane Giebelhaus, Mrs. Li. Giebelhaus, Mrs. Katharine Eberhardt, Mrs. Annie Miller, Mrs. Zelta Giebelhaus. Seventh row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Martha Everett, Mrs. Hans Mayer, Mrs. Geo. P. Albrecht, Mrs. Betty Plews, Mrs. Lorraine Duliba, Mrs. Bill Zacharuk, Mrs. Audrey Miller, Mrs. Ester Giebelhaus (organist), Mrs. Hertha Giebelhaus, Mrs. Barbra Lutes, Mrs. Hickman, Mrs. Isabel Lewis, Mrs. Marlyn Penfound, Mrs. Geo. Albrecht, Mr. Eickmeyer, Ida Eickmeyer, Mrs. Richard Kay, Mrs. Alma James, Mrs. Meadowcroft, unknown. Half row (men seated — l. to r.) — Gordon Miller, William Giebelhaus, Chris Giebelhaus, Rev. Marvin Lutes, Rev. Charles Hickman, Rev. Don Lewis, Mr. Mervin Penfound (student minister), George Miller, Rev. Hessels, Mrs. Hessels, unknown, Mrs. Anne Christensen. Men sitting on the ground (l. to r.) — Bill Kelly, Albin Lukawiecki, John Albrecht, Ross Zwierschke, and many children.

Giebelhaus and Chris Giebelhaus, as elders: Ross Zwierschke was the chairman. Other officers were John D. Giebelhaus, recording steward: John Albrecht, membership secretary; Mrs. Mary Giebelhaus, Sunday School superintendent: Mrs. Katie Giebelhaus, President of the U.C.W.

During the first fifty years there were thirty weddings and twenty-six funerals conducted at the church.

Salem has remained an active church over the past decade. There is a regular Sunday School, and in July of each year a Vacation Bible School is held. Every December there is an annual Christmas Concert. The U.C.W. meets regularly, with eleven mem-

bers attending, including four charter members in the group.

The pews from the old Vegreville United Church were installed at Salem in 1970. In 1973 an oil heating furnace was installed in the church, and in 1976 the manse was re-shingled.

The church itself has undergone many changes, such as interior decorating, including carpeting; new steps, the installation of a piano, and a reading Bible; these and other memorials have been made to the church in memory of loved ones. A record of all memorials is to be found in the Church Memorial Book.

The present church officers are as follows:

William Giebelhaus and Gordon Miller, Elders: Marvin Giebelhaus and Ronald Lowe, Deacons: Gordon Miller is the Chairman. John D. Giebelhaus, recording steward, John Albrecht, membership secretary, Mrs. Katie Giebelhaus, Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Esther Giebelhaus, President of the U.C.W.; Mrs. Florence Giebelhaus, treasurer of the U.C.W. Mrs. Grace Albrecht, secretary of the U.C.W.; Mrs. Zelda Giebelhaus, memorial secretary; Wallace Giebelhaus, cemetery administrator.

Some of the vital statistics over the past ten years are as follows:

Weddings	4
Funerals	5
Baptisms	19
Confirmations	16
Membership by Transfer	3

The membership of Salem Church as of anniversary date 1977 stands at 55.

It is said that 'the church has come singing down through the ages', and Salem has been fortunate in being faithfully served by organists over the years. Miss Margaret (Peggy) Giebelhaus was organist from 1917 to 1924, Margaret Giebelhaus (Zwierschke) from 1925 to 1936, Miss Lydia Giebelhaus (Roemer) from 1936 to 1947, and Mrs. Esther Giebelhaus from 1949 to the present day. Miss Margaret (Peggy) Giebelhaus and Mrs. Beulah Giebelhaus, among others relieved on the organ at various times.

The church has also been served by an impressive group of dedicated ministers and students. A list of the ministers and students who have served the needs of the congregation in either a full or part time capacity is as follows:

Rev. Gutenson	
Rev. G. F. Vetter	1898-1903
Rev. R. Birk	1903-1907
Rev. C. F. W. Graeser	1901-1906
Rev. A. A. K. Heinemann	1907-1909
Rev. E. Brumoehler	1909-1912
Rev. J. K. Mugglin	1912-1913
Rev. E. Dyken	1913-1915
Rev. E. Lehrer	1915-1917
Rev. J. H. Buenzli	1917-1918
Rev. F. Stucki	1919-
Rev. S. Romeis	1919-1920
Rev. P. Summerlatte	1920-
Rev. C. Weidler	1920-1921
Rev. C. H. Reppert	1921-
Rev. Conrad	
Rev. G. Gaiser	1923-1930
Rev. Wimbrauck	1931-
Rev. W. Korn	1932-1936
Rev. Huer	

Rev. S. Krieger	1937-1962
Rev. I. Neumann	1936
Rev. H. Roemer	1942-1958
Rev. E. Thomas	1958-1960
Mr. Buttler	1959-
Rev. L. Fruechte	1960-
Rev. G. Hickman	1961-1968
Rev. D. Lewis	1961-1962
Rev. M. Lutes	1963-1964
Rev. K. Jordan	1965-
Mr. J. Smith	1966-
Mr. M. Penfound	1967-
Rev. H. Miller	1968-1970
Mr. B. Hunter	1968-
Mr. G. LeDrew	1969-
Mr. R. Putman	1970-
Rev. A. R. Seal	1970-present
Mr. B. Giffin	1971-
Mr. J. Thompson	1972-
Mr. C. McGuire	1973-
Mr. H. McDonald	1974-
Mr. D. Vipond	1975-
Mr. D. Hallman	1976-
Mr. B. P. C. Kennedy	1977-

Copy of the original History of Salem Congregation of Martins

Accepted as of July 1st, 1917

In the year 1903 the first families of the Reformed Church settled here. Their former homeland was Norka, Russia. Originally these families were of the Reformed Church faith, and this faith continued in their new homes.

The first missionary to arrive here was Rev. Graeser, who served this congregation for a time. Thereafter the following pastors also served: Rev. Birk, Heinemann, Brunoehler, Mugglin, Dyken, and Buenzli. It was under the last-mentioned minister's leadership that it was decided to build a church. The land on which the church was to be built consisted of two acres which was purchased at \$80.00 per acre. The size of the church was to be 28 feet by 40 feet with a full basement and steeple.

At first the congregation consisted of 11 confirmed members but at this time (1917) consisted of 44 members. The congregation had a well-attended Sunday School and Young People's.

It was in April, 1917 that the congregation unanimously decided to build the church. In June the first work commenced, and on July 1st of the same year at 3:30 o'clock P.M. the laying of the cornerstone took place. The church was given the name "Redeemer's Church".

The Church Board consisted of:
 Brother Philip Albrecht, Brother George Giebelhaus
 Deacons.

Conrad Albrech, Richard Kay
Trustees.

The building contractor was "Jennings and Skritsmeier".

May the good Lord grant that in this church many a soul may find remission of their sins, so the name "Redeemer's Church" may be rightfully given. The Triune God, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost grant it grace. Amen.

Contents of the Cornerstone:

1. History of the founding of the congregation
2. A Church Herald
3. A Mission Bote "Messenger"
4. A Sunday School Lesson

In submission from the congregation,

Richard Kay, Secretary

Signatures:

Henry Albrecht	John Giebelhaus
Adam Giebelhaus Jr.	J. H. Buenzli, Pastor
John G. Giebelhaus	C. Albrecht, Deacon
Philip Albrecht	A. Giebelhaus, Deacon
Conrad Giebelhaus	J. Blum Sr., Trustee
George Albrecht	J. Blum, Trustee
Heinrich Giebelhaus	

Vegreville Evangelical Church by Evan Riemer

In 1955 plans for the building of the Vegreville Evangelical Church came into effect. In July, tent meetings were held in the town providing Bible classes for the children during the day and family meetings in the evenings.

Although the attendance was only fair, the assurance was there that the work should go on. Missionaries of the Slavic Gospel Association, John and Lucille Kushnerik, made their decision to move to Vegreville and announced the building program. In the meantime meetings were held in a home.

At this point there was no building fund nor building committee. Yet, the finding of a lot, the drawing of the blueprints and the town approval came quickly. The funds did not seem like a major problem at this time for the missionaries strongly believed that it was their business to obey and build and it was God's business to supply. That is not saying that faith wasn't tested. Hanging on the wall of the army hut (their temporary home) was a poster which read, "For such a time is this, have faith in God".

It wasn't long before a letter came saying, "Come to my lumber camp. I have lumber for your building". Also, two Christian contractors donated cement for exactly the amount needed. At this time Canadian cement was impossible to get. Friends offered their time for construction. By Christmas, 1955, the living quarters were occupied and the

Chapel the following spring. In only a few years it was completed and paid for. (Located on Highway 16, 52nd Street, Vegreville, Alberta.)

During these years the Church extended its ministry to Ranfurly and districts south, north to Hairy Hill and west to Mundare. Street meetings were held in Vegreville and Mundare from 1956 to 1963. Soon after this the Kushneriks accepted another pastorate and the Evangelical Church was served by Rev. and Mrs. Pascechnik and Rev. and Mrs. McCombe consecutively for a number of years. In 1977 the local congregation voted to affiliate with the Christian and Missionary Alliance and at present is named the Vegreville Alliance Church. Rev. and Mrs. Ron Brown served here for two years before leaving for the mission field in Africa. The present pastor is Rev. Lawrence Hahn, with his wife and three children.

Vegreville Seventh-day Adventist Church by Sandra Elkow

In 1952, Dr. Steve Haluschak was the only Seventh-day Adventist in Vegreville or district within twenty miles. A few years later through the efforts of a few lay members from Innisfree and Pastors C. Samograd and G. Solonuik, a small group of believers met in the home of one of the members. Then, under Pastor Rudolph Skoretz who was the minister for two years, a few more were added and this group of believers was organized into a company.

In the fall of 1961, through the work of Pastor P. E. Uniat, speaker of the Ukrainian Voice of Hope Radio program, still more souls had been added. In fact, the group had grown too large to congregate in a



Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Seventh Day Adventist Church, March, 1962. Front row (l. to r.) — Bill Markowsky, contractor; Dr. S. Haluschak, first Seventh-day Adventist in Vegreville and building committee chairman; P. Uniat, district pastor; J. M. Hnatyshyn, visiting guest from the Canadian Union; W. Szpytko, member of the building committee. Back row (l. to r.) — Three Gobrys brothers, Leo, Paul and John, (brothers-in-law to Dr. S. Haluschak) of Edmonton, church members who willingly came to assist in the church-building programme.

home; there were as many as 54 persons meeting in Dr. Haluschak's home.

In January of 1962, Pastor Uniat visited the group one Sabbath and called for all the members to meet that evening. When all had arrived, he presented the need for a church. That evening the members pledged \$7,000 toward the building. A building committee was chosen immediately; Chairman — Dr. S. Haluschak; Secretary — M. Semotiuk; others on the committee: Bill Markowsky, Wm. Szpytko and George Tarangal. The next week they purchased an acre of land for \$1,500. Bill Markowsky, a contractor, donated all his labour free, and hired one or two men (to go along with the volunteer labour of the members) and paid their salaries himself. He also donated hundreds of dollars worth of materials, thus saving the members thousands of dollars in labour and materials. How fortunate for the work of God to have sincere men like him who are willing to contribute so much time, work and money to further His work! Mr. Markowsky sacrificed thousands of dollars he could have gained had he chosen to contract other jobs rather than help the Vegreville members.

Pastor Uniat and Bill Markowsky made a trip to Lamming Mills, British Columbia, early in the spring, presented the need to Mr. Lamming whom the Lord impressed to help. He donated a carload of lumber. The members were thrilled at this news!

Mike Dadensky of the Beauvallon-Pobida Church had years before said that if the Vegreville members ever build a church he would help. He was as good as his word! He dug the basement, supplied all the gravel from his own pit (using his caterpillar tractor with an overhead loader to load the gravel), helped to haul the gravel twenty miles to the building site, used his truck to unload the lumber when it arrived by train, and he also sloped and built up the dirt to the proper level around the building. Paul Trynychuk from the Myrnam Church helped haul gravel with his truck, poured cement, all labour and help donated. For pouring cement and unloading lumber the following persons from Innisfree and Edmonton Churches helped: Paul Hryhurchuk, Sam Rudyk, John Morawsky, Jack Samograd, John Hryhurchuk, Leo Gabrys, Paul Gabrys and David Pasay. Besides these, all the members in the Vegreville group worked hard, pouring cement, unloading lumber and supplying volunteer labour for the building of the church. Dr. S. Haluschak carried a large portion of the financial responsibility. He and his wife also worked many days at the church from 5:00 a.m. until the doctor had to go to his office at 9:00 a.m. The Myrnam, Innisfree and Pobida churches made wonderful contributions to the church building. Many donations were received from out-

side the Vegreville church area, and these were appreciated more than words can tell.

Official Church Opening

Pastor P. E. Uniat and the Vegreville Seventh-day Adventist Church members were full of joy and thankfulness to God at the official church opening service on August 18, 1962. It took approximately three months to build the church.

Dr. Steve Haluschak was the Sabbath School superintendent. A guest, Pastor E. L. Green, from the Canadian Union in Oshawa, Ontario, the Treasurer, took part in the Sabbath School by giving a good report of the General Conference, and also the mission story.

Other guests were: Pastor D. Skoretz who conducted the Sabbath School lesson study and Pastor



The Vegreville Seventh-day Adventist Church located on 4718-60 St., 1980.



The interior of the new Vegreville Seventh Day Adventist Church — on official opening Aug. 18, 1962. Pastor W. A. Nelson is shown speaking to the congregation with Pastor P. E. Uniat translating. Seated in front (l. to r.) — George Tarangul, head elder; G. Soloniuk, pastor of the Edmonton Ukrainian Church; Dr. S. Haluschak, Sabbath School Superintendent, and Pastor Nick Trynychuk.

Nick Trynchuk translated into Ukrainian. Canadian Union President W. A. Nelson presented a message that touched each heart. Deputy Mayor M. Craddock on behalf of the mayor and Town of Vegreville extended a welcome to all the visitors and congratulated the congregation upon the completion of the fine church and wished them every success in the future.

Alberta Conference President J. W. Bothe examined the baptismal candidates concerning their belief in the doctrines of the Bible and challenged them to be faithful until Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven to take His people home. Pastor H. C. T. Johnson, Alberta Conference treasurer, took charge of the special service for the children.

The day was climaxed by a baptism of five precious souls. This service was conducted by Pastor P. E. Uniat at a nearby lake.

Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church

The Holden Evangelical Church came into existence as a result of the settling of members of this denomination in the district. In 1908 Mr. Adam Gienger came from Kansas, U.S.A. and settled near Lavoy. Prior to his coming to Canada he was a member of the Evangelical Church in the States. In 1912 the August Miller family also came to this community. They, too, came from Kansas. Both the parents and two members of this family were members of the Evangelical Church in Kansas.

In the year 1913 these families read in the church magazine, "Botschafter" about an Evangelical minister who was stationed in the city of Edmonton. The reference was to the Rev. J. S. Domm. It was only natural that the families contact Rev. Domm. The result was that in the year 1914 he held his first service in the Martins school-house, now known as the John Adams school. Some time later he conducted another service in the same school-house. This was the beginnings of a work which grew into an established church within a few short years.

From December 26-30, 1916, Rev. and Mrs. Domm held the first series of Revival meetings in the school-house. Assisting them in this crusade were Brother Kadatz of South Edmonton, Mrs. Weis and Mrs. Gunst. The fervour of these children of God for the work of the Kingdom is seen in the lasting impression which their strivings made on at least one who was present at the meetings. Mrs. E. Eberhart remembers how they went from bench to bench on their knees and asked the people to pray. Later, two young seventeen-year-old boys, August Knopp and Henry Smith, came from New Sarepta and joined in the praying and intercession for souls. One of the young men beat upon the bench while he was praying

for the Spirit of God to move in the community. Such was the spiritual atmosphere which prevailed among those who saw the need for a Christian witness in the community.

Among the converts of this first mission were Mr. and Mrs. Mike Grinde. Reclaimed for the Lord's service were Ed. and John Gienger.

The Organization of the Church

In the year 1917 the Emmanuel Evangelical Church was organized in the Holden area. This new church consisted of eleven members, three of whom are still alive for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary. Of the eleven members five were received on transfer of their membership from Kansas, while the other six were new members from the community. The membership list read as follows:

Transfer of membership:
Mr. and Mrs. August Miller
Christine Miller, now Mrs. Gienger. Washington
Albert Miller
Mr. Adam Gienger
The new members:
Mr. John Gienger
Mr. Ed. Gienger
Mr. and Mrs. John Eberhart
Miss E. Miller, now Mrs. J. A. Giebelhaus
Mrs. Adam Gienger.

After the formation of the church the services were held in various locations such as the Martins school-house, the Mayflower school-house, and at the Miller and Gienger homes. This young, growing church was served by the ministers who lived in Edmonton. Generally the minister travelled to Holden by train, but some made the weekly journey by horse and buggy. One minister even made the long journey by bicycle; quite a feat in those days when the highways did not have the smooth surfaces as we know them today.

The boundaries set by the Canada Conference, later to be known as the Northwest Canada Conference, included a number of churches in the circuit. New Sarepta, Holden, and some others were included in the area served from Edmonton. There is an old Register in the custody of this church which mentions the Evangelical church in Sugden, East Edmonton. The entries cover the years 1921 to 1926, and includes such places as Fork Lake and district. It must also be remembered that some of the churches had several preaching-points as well as the main church, so the minister did not have much time to rest between the services when he was on circuit.

The Growth of the Church

In 1920 a series of Revival meetings was arranged to be held. These meetings were held in a large tent which was erected on the John Eberhart farm, just

beside the Martins school. In charge of these special meetings were Rev. Martin, Rev. Kretzinger, and Mr. Flemer. The Lord blessed the ministry of His Word and a number were saved as a result. Something of the burden which Rev. Martin had for souls is seen in the fact that he fasted and prayed for an entire week during these meetings. Mr. John Eberhart told of how he stood in his own farmyard, nearly three-quarters of a mile away, and heard Rev. Martin pray and intercede with God in the tent. Certainly this church was born in prayer and the anguish of holy men of God.

The following year, 1921, saw another series of meetings arranged with Rev. Martin, Rev. Domm, and Mr. Fosler. There were 18 souls saved and they joined the church. Some of these later dropped their names from the membership list of the church.

Other points of worship came into existence for those too far from the Martins school. One such place was the West Bruce School-house. For a period of time Rev. and Mrs. Martin lived in the Pipke home on the Holden highway. They would conduct the morning service in Holden area, and then travel by team and buggy to Bruce for the afternoon service. Lunch was eaten on the journey! In the evening they would return to Holden and lead in the Young People's service.

In the early thirties there was a large number of farmers who moved up to this area from around Hanna and other parts. Many settled on rented land east of the church, in the Lavoy area. As a result of the interest shown there for a center of worship, a new worship point was begun in the Victory school-house in 1930. This group continued to meet there until about 1943 when they combined their membership with the list at the Emmanuel church. The reason for the discontinuance of the Lavoy center was due to a large number of farmers who moved away from the area. The majority of these moved westward to B.C. and the coast.

Building the Church and the Dedication

Those early years saw a good development in both membership and in the attendance at the regular services. As a result of this steady growth it was felt that there should be a more central place of worship. The congregation was crowding the homes for worship and the local school was not always available on Sunday mornings.

In 1922 the present church building was constructed. Actual construction began in the month of June and was completed by fall. Rev. Martin served as the chief carpenter, with members of the church and many friends giving voluntary assistance. The oldest man on the team was the Rev. Martin, and it was he who claimed the spire after it was constructed

to nail on the shingles. Church construction was no unique experience for this minister for he helped build about eleven churches in his lifetime. The plot of land on which the church is built was part of the farm of Mr. John Gienger, son of Mr. Adam Gienger.

Something of the jovial nature of Rev. Martin is seen in the following story which is told concerning the construction of the church building. At the beginning of the construction Rev. Martin promised the voluntary helpers that each one could take home with him 20 nails each working day they were present on the job. This was reckoned as a good "reward" for the labour of love bestowed on the House of the Lord. At the end of the first day the men gathered around the minister for their pay of nails. The jovial minister pointed to their hands and feet and asked them to count the number of "nails" there. Naturally the total was 20! So each man went home with his contracted allotment of nails.

The windows, pews, and fittings for the church were supplied by the Hayward Lumber Company of Edmonton, and hauled down by wagon. This was a two-day journey for the loaded wagon and team.

Additions have been made to the church, as well as improvements, over the past 50 years. The following extract is taken from the minutes of the church.

"The summer of '41 proved a busy one for the people of Vegreville because of . . . enlarging of the church and putting a full basement under it. A furnace was installed. The back wall was taken out of the auditorium of the church, making the same 6' longer and a vestibule 10' x 12' was built. The platform was raised 7' and made 14" longer. The ceiling was painted a light cream after the dark varnish had been covered by an undercoat, and the floor was painted a stone blue. The total cost of the improvements was \$591.30 which was paid by the people; besides donating approximately 200 days of manual labour. Dr. Krueger was with us for the dedication services in Sept., 1941."

Several years ago electric power was installed in the church, and was first used on December 23, 1962. During the ministry of Rev. F. Becker, the heating system was changed and an oil-furnace was put into use. The latest alterations have been the extending of the kitchen by incorporating the "coal-house", and covering the walls of the main auditorium with beautiful panelling.

Present for the dedication of the church after its completion in 1922 was the Rev. B. Weiner from Naperville, Illinois, U.S.A.

Financing the Church Building

When the church was completed it can be said to the glory of God that there remained no debts to be paid at the time of the Dedication. All bills had been

paid or the money was on hand. Contributions from the members were very liberal, for the number of members at this time was comparatively small.

A great principle of Scripture was seen put into practice by one of the members. Mr. August Miller set apart an area of his cultivated land which he estimated to be about one-tenth of his total seeded land. The harvest from this portion was kept separate from the remainder and when it was sold it realized a total of \$400. This sum in its entirety was given towards the building of the church.

Since the church was built by voluntary labour there were no labour charges. Some financial support was received from the Canada Conference of the Evangelical church. An offering was also received at the time of the Dedication by those present. Outstanding bills which remained after all the finances had been exhausted were accepted by the Miller and Gienger families and they took the responsibility of settling the accounts.

Ministers who Served on the Holden Field

The following is a list of the men who have served in the Holden area. This list may not be entirely accurate for the earlier years, since there appear to have been more than two ministers stationed at times in Edmonton to serve the scattered field.

The approximate year is given when the minister began his service.

1916	Rev. J. S. Domm
	Rev. F. E. Martin
1924	Rev. A. A. Rieger
1925	Rev. L. K. Eidt
1926	Rev. E. M. Gishler
	Rev. A. G. Knopp
1929	Rev. E. J. Roleder
1932	Rev. W. F. Krotz and Rev. T. Yackel
1935	Rev. J. Doerksen
1936	Rev. F. Ewald
	This was probably the first permanently resident minister.
1937	Rev. A. J. Grams
1946	Rev. E. Streitz
1948	Rev. J. P. Dyck
1949	Rev. E. A. Sagert
	The parsonage was transferred from Vegreville to Holden.
1954	Rev. D. W. Maetche
1954	Rev. A. P. Lieske
1958	Rev. D. L. Schindell
1961	Rev. E. Bayley
1963	Rev. D. W. Maetche
1965	Rev. F. Becker
1970	Rev. J. McKinstry

Youth Work

From the formation of the church there was a

work carried out among the youth of the community. No record is available of the form this work took in the early years. On the 29th, January, 1931, the Youth Fellowship was officially organized. Responsible for the work of initiating this organization was Rev. E. J. Roleder.

The list of members as given in the minutes of this organizational meeting is as follows: Wm. Remin, Emil Quast, Philipp Shower, Fred Wiedmer, Reinhold Gienger, Ernest Gienger, Oscar Speidel, Jack Speidel, Ernest Grinde, Ewald Breikreitz, Arthur Breikreitz, Eric Breikreitz, Reinhold Lutz, William Schettle, Otto Quast, Jack Baer, Allex Kercher, Arthur Sagert, Otto Brige, Robert Schmautz, Bill Dowhanuik, August Remin, Gustav Miller, Otto Gienger, Frieda Bauer, Frida Gienger, Lila Remin, Dorothy Miller, Rubey Eberhart, Martha Miller, Frida Wiedmer, Mabel Grinde, Clara Schettle, Ella Schettle, Saloma Sagert, Edna Sagert, Ida Pipke, Helen Remin.

The secretary's report for each meeting makes very interesting reading, especially when one considers the amount of time required to fit each item into an evening's service.

An actual copy is here given of the report for an unidentified date in the year 1932:

Report #5

1. The first item on our programme was a song by the congregation — 52 — Mehr von dem Heiland
2. Gal. 4:1-8 read by the President in German
3. Gal. 6:7-9 read by the Vice-President in English
4. A prayer by Rev. E. J. Rohleder
5. Musical and singing duet by Mabel and E. Grinde
6. Reading by Ida Pipke in English
7. Musical and singing duet by Martha Miller and Frieda Bauer
8. Reading by Clara Schettle in English
9. Reading by Frieda Bauer in English
10. Duet by Ida and Gottfried Pipke
11. Reading by the secretary in English
Reading by Saloma Sagert in German
12. Duet by Mabel and Ernest Grinde
13. Reading by Ruby Eberhardt in English
14. A trio by Clara and Ella Schettle and Frieda Gienger
15. Reading by Edna Sagert in English
16. Duet by M. Miller and F. Bauer
17. Reading by Frieda Gienger in English
Reading by E. Grinde in English
18. Duet by Ida and Gottfried Pipke
19. Reading by Reinhold Gienger — English; by M. Miller — English
20. Duet by Mabel and Ernest Grinde

21. Reading by John Harter in English
Reading by Ella Schettler in English
22. Duet by Clara and Ella Schettler
23. Reading by Mabel Grinde in English
24. Reading by Ernest Eberhardt in English
25. Duet by M. Miller and F. Bauer
26. Reading by Saloma Sagert — English
27. The Topic read by the President
28. Report read by the Secretary
29. Song by cong. while collection was held .97¢
30. Reading by Ernest Gienger in English
Reading by Helen Remin in English
31. Prayer by Ernest Grinde and the Lord's Prayer
32. Speech by Rev. E. J. Rohleder
33. Duet by E. and M. Grinde
34. Our meeting now came to a close by the singing of hymn #154 — Müde von des tages lasten — sung by the congregation

— L. Remin, Secretary

50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, April 16, 1972, turned out to be a bright and sunny, though rather cool and windy day. It was a highlight in the life of the Emmanuel congregation for they had met to celebrate the 50th year of the building of the church.

In preparation for this event the congregation had purchased a new set of Worship and Service Hymnals. The interior of the church had been beautified by covering the walls with a light-coloured panel board. The pews and woodwork had also been painted to match with the wall covering. Invitations had been sent to all our Churches in the Conference, and personal invitations helped to advertise the occasion. All the ministers who had served this church in recent years were encouraged to be present and participate in the programme. Present for the celebrations were the Revs. Sagert, Knopp, and Lieske. Letters were received from Revs. Grams and Schindell who were unable to be present. Unfortunately Rev. Becker was not able to make it due to a severe cold which he had contracted just two days earlier.

Overflow crowds were present for both the morning and afternoon services. The overflow was accommodated in two busses parked outside the church. Mr. Arnold Fried supplied the amplifier equipment which enabled those in the basement and the two busses to hear the entire programme.

For the evening service about 80 people were present to hear Rev. Jesske bring the concluding message. This service climaxed the entire day's worship as several indicated a desire to find a closer walk with the Lord.

A delicious full-course meal was served after the morning service to about 275 people. About half this number stayed for the lunch which was served at the

conclusion of the afternoon service. The ladies of the church are to be congratulated for their part in preparing, and serving such a great number so efficiently. Assisting the ladies in the work of serving tables were the members of the Youth Fellowship.

Flowers to decorate the church were provided by Mrs. E. Kiist and Mr. Harold Steinwand.

Letters and greetings were received from the following who were unable to be present:

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harter, Chilliwack, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Batch, Aldergrove, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil (Mammel) Quast, Prince Rupert, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. H. (Harter) Bock, London, Ont.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dowhanuik, Burlington, Washington.

The morning service began with the singing of the Doxology followed by the hymn, "To God be the Glory." A welcome was given to all present by our Lay Leader, Mr. Robert Schultz. Mrs. McKinstry, the Pastor's wife, welcomed the friends in German.

In the place of Rev. Becker who was to bring the message in German, Rev. F. Pahl ministered. Fred lived for some years in the Lavoy district and after graduating from the Catechism Class, he moved with his parents to B.C. He is presently living in Edmonton.

The Scripture Lesson was read from the original German Bible which had been presented to the congregation on July 23, 1922, at the time of the dedication of the new Church building.



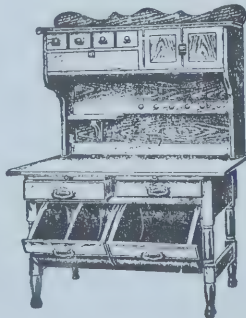
Baptist Church, about 1920.



St. John's Lutheran Church was built in 1928, ½ block west of 50th Street and 45 Ave. Some of the ministers were: Revs. Luening, Mueller, Maschmeyer, Folkmann, Hildebrandt, Gulbert, Photenhauer, Neilson, Wildgrube, Hennig, Mast. This church was sold to Baptist congregation in 1961 and a big church was built.

TESTED RECIPES:—Compiled by the Ladies Aid of the Presbyterian Church, Vegreville.

A Kitchen Cabinet



Is recommended by ladies generally as a proper adjunct to successful cookery

Clute & Walker
Furniture Dealers
Vegreville

Our Conference Superintendent, Rev. Jesske, brought the messages in English at all three services and his ministry was greatly appreciated. His theme was centered on the fact that the church has a glorious future to be entered into and utilized for the glory of God. The general theme of all who shared was to the effect that the past is only a reminder of God's goodness, and of the work which He has for us to perform in the days ahead.

We were blessed in our souls with a number of special messages in song brought to us by both visiting singers and those from our own congregation.

TESTED RECIPES:—Compiled by the Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church, Vegreville.

Mocka Balls.

Make plain cake cut in squares and roll in icing made with two cups butter, creamed, four cups powdered sugar, two teaspoons milk, one tablespoon vanilla, one tablespoon lemon; then roll iced squares in almond nuts blanched brown in oven and rolled

FOR CAKE.—One cup sugar, one-half cup butter, two eggs, one teaspoon vanilla, one cup milk, one and one-half cups flour, two teaspoons baking powder.—Mrs. H. S. Monkman.

COOKIES AND MACAROONS.

Fruit Cookies.

One and one-half cup brown sugar, one cup butter, three eggs, one teaspoon soda in two tablespoons buttermilk, one cup chopped raisins, flour enough to roll thin.—Mrs. Will Clements.

Walnut Wafers.

Two cups chopped walnuts, four eggs, two cups brown sugar, six level tablespoons flour, salt-pon salt; mix all together and drop from a teaspoon onto buttered tin. Roll immediately on removing from oven.—Mrs. A. L. Horton.

Date Bars.

Whip the whites of four eggs stiff. Then add two cups white sugar, one half cup almonds, one-half cup dates, (chop almonds and dates), a little vanilla, mix these and spread on long pan which has been greased. Cook in a moderate oven about one-half hour.—Mrs. E. Walker.

Almond Macaroons.

One-half pound shelled almonds, one-half pound fruit sugar, whites three eggs; blanch almonds and put them through meat chopper, using nut grinder; add sugar; mix thoroughly, then gradually add unbeaten whites of eggs. The mixture should be stiff enough to hold its shape. Cover baking sheet with unbuttered paper and drop mixture on it. Allow

From a book compiled by the Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church Vegreville, 1910. (These two pages.)

We were privileged to have two of our charter members with us for the occasion. Mrs. E. Eberhart who is still a member of the church and a faithful attender, was present for all the services. Mrs. J. A. Giebelhaus, now living in Sherwood Park, was with us for the morning and afternoon services.

Innisfree (Delnorte) Methodist Church by Erica Mansell

In the early years there was some Sunday School and Church held in the school. When people travelled by car and there was more money to run them, the ministers didn't come out to the country anymore. Those wishing to attend church went to town. We attend the Innisfree United Church and have written the history of it. There was a connection with Vegreville United Church then. David Simpson, a young minister from England, a native of Skipton, Yorkshire, arrived in Innisfree, December 4, 1906. He took charge of the Methodist work in the settlement and surrounding territory. The spring of 1905 he had a shack built which he called a parsonage.

With the help of a carpenter and the people who consisted of the Union Church people as well, they built the church. All these people had decided to worship at the Methodist Church. It was formally opened on Sunday, August 25, 1907. Rev. W. K. Allen of Vegreville was the officiating minister who opened the Church for worship. The following evening he also organized the first official Board. While he did this service, Rev. D. Simpson preached for Rev. Allen at Vegreville. I am enclosing a picture of Main Street, Vegreville that Rev. Allen had sent Rev. Simpson December 19, 1907. He in turn gave it to us.

It was with great pleasure that Rev. D. Simpson, at the age of 82 years, came back and preached in our Innisfree United Church on July 11, 1966. He had planned so long to be able to do this, that he was just bubbling over with joy and enthusiasm. The large crowd really enjoyed hearing him. The original church is still being used. It became the United Church from Methodist in 1925. We built onto the kitchen for a Social Room which is still very much in use.

Modes of Transportation



Clyde and Allan Dinwoodie off to school with horse and cutter, January, 1938.



Charles Hayter in his 1950 Prefect — British Ford, 1951.



Winnie Piche, formerly of Vegreville. Edmonton, 1910.



Cars parked by the Chautauqua tent — Iva and Grace Meyer standing in front, 1924.



Roy, Ormy, Beulah, Thelma, Lois, in cutter, about 1913. The Trimble home burned down in 1923.



Tetreaus, 1920. (l. to r.): Albertine, Yvonne, Alphonse, Raymond, Irene and Joseph (father) — in their 490 Chev. Sedan with a canvas top that folded up or down.



Charlie Lane hauling grain, 1928.



Single horse and buggy driven in the early days; Esther Wagner's parents in southern Alberta, 1912.



Harry J. Wynnchuk in his first Model T at the Big Four Ranch where Harry was employed, 1920.



John Porozni's transportation, February, 1947.

Schools

St. Martin's Roman Catholic Separate School District, No. 16

Compiled by Betty (Brinton) Hantiuk

St. Martin's RCSS District was formed in January, 1907, in response to the urgent requests of numerous Catholic families who had settled around the church property in the new townsite (the area since known as "Frenchtown"). To direct the education program, les Filles de la Providence (Daughters of Providence) Order sent three nuns from Saskatchewan: Sisters Adelaide, Madeleine, and St. Leonard; they immediately started classes in the rectory by the river. Miss Anna Doyle, who had previously taught at Old Vegreville and who was the only teacher qualified with an Alberta certificate, was hired as principal; she later entered the order as Sr. Marie Claire. Because of transportation difficulties in those days, many school-aged children had to be boarded out; therefore, a dormitory was required and Father Garnier immediately directed the construction of the first convent: a three-storied brick building, 50' x 60', located just north of St. Martin's church. There, about a dozen Sisters resided and taught not only academic subjects but also religion, music, crafts, and deportment to the numerous boarders and day-scholars. The frugal French nuns also kept a fine garden and milk-cows; erring students atoned for their sins by assisting with chores. In hard times, some families paid the board bill with loads of hay, wood, or with farm produce.

The first school board consisted of Eugene Poul-in, Benoit Tetreau, John Stanton, Thomas Charlebois, and Jas. Spellman; Fr. Bernier acted as secretary-treasurer. It was hard to make ends meet, so often the devoted teachers taught at nominal salaries and in overcrowded conditions, and with the barest of equipment and texts, as was common in pioneer times.

In 1914, a fine six-room brick school was built under Fr. Garnier's supervision; it stands today on spacious landscaped grounds facing 54A Ave. Classes in basic school subjects for Grades 1 to XII were



Some high school students and teachers at front of St. Martin's School, 1937. Clockwise: Mary Bohaychuk, Mary Bruha, Stella Green, Hazel Brinton, Betty Brinton, Sr. Ste. Cecilia, Peter Schultz, Peter Chilibeck, Ted Tetreau, Sr. Ste. Daniel (Principal), Josephine Kupchenko, Irene Bradshaw, Lillian Belzil.



Vegreville Catholic Public School, (now "Old Vegreville" Community Centre), 1941. Teacher: Betty Brinton. Pupils, by row, left: Helen Makowichuk, Lorna Cole, Adrien Benoit, Ernie Rempis, Leona Bienvenue, Walter Makowichuk, Nora Cassidy, Lowell Gorsline, Hans Rempis, Meta Rempis, Bill Gorsline, Marion Cole, Emilia Benoit, Carol Cole, Gary Gorsline, ?, Plouffe, Florence Plouffe.

offered there, while extra-curricular activities centered in the convent. In 1919 the original convent proved too small and a spacious addition was added to the north end; the latter portion remained until destroyed by fire about 1976. At its peak use, the enlarged building housed about ninety Sisters and boarders; some of the latter, such as Brosseaus from the river crossing, spent twelve years in continuous residence, excluding holidays. This type of accommodation and dedicated, charitable service by pioneer nuns was a great boon to those who sought education; many of the first professional people in our community owe their start to the thorough, if rigorous, training offered by the Daughters of Providence. As centralization increased, the need for boarding facilities decreased and the convent was partially closed. Finally, after sixty years' service, the Sisters felt that their missionary role was completed in Vegreville; they disposed of their property and returned to Saskatchewan.

Since 1943 the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate of the Greek Catholic rite have provided teaching personnel in both Catholic schools. Due to town expansion southwards, an elementary school, St.

Mary's, was built in 1964-65 off Huyke Avenue on 53 Street and 45 Avenue; land purchased from Joe Humenick and Mrs. Hohn. Mr. M. Tomynd was appointed principal there and remains in that position today, although relieved for several years by Mr. Cucheran. George Spak is current principal at St. Martin's, which, since 1967, offers instruction to elementary and junior high grades only.

Besides those already mentioned, some of the well-known teachers at the Catholic schools were: Claire Lafleur, Sr. St. Daniel (Gallagher), Sadie Stanton, Kathleen Bender, Sr. Cecilia, Sr. Mary Benedict, Jessie Hnydyk, Robt. Henley, Wm. Bushko, Michael Tomynd, Mary Kudryk, Srs. Mary Gertrude and Marie de Lorette (Bolan twins), Rita Tetreau, Jean Kuzyk, Colleen (Cassidy) Chapman, Emilia Klymochko, Joan Henley, Betty (Brinton) Hantiuk, Margaret (McKenzie) Bosse, Walter Zientarski, Annabelle Swekla, Jean (Hantiuk) Hughston, Allison Toronchuk, George Yuskow, Diane (Hayduk) Cheremshynski, Sr. Joachim, Nellie Sribney, Elsie Mudryk, Harold Mori, Ann Novakowski, and Veronica Devost.

In memory of the late honored principal, Wm.



St. Martin's Separate School built in 1914 by Samuel Coombs and Gilles.

Bushko, a scholarship is now offered by his widow, Jeanette, to the most deserving Grade IX graduate:

1976 — Trudy Sribney

1977 — Hazel Paquette

1978 — Lise Laboucane

1979 — (tie) Dario Stemberger and Jerome Krysak

Throughout its long life, St. Martin's District has been served by dedicated Board members previously mentioned and others such as: Genery Marchand and (years later) his daughter, Albina Wuetherick, Patrick Dobbins, George Bourget, O. Balcaen, Henry Dumont, Dr. and Helen Couillard, Emil Belisle, Adolphe Dubuc, Dr. J. Yak, Thos. Farrell, J. B. Tetreau, Simon Sysak, Mike Zenko, Eugene Pelletier, Frank Lemiski, Sam and Pat Smolyk, Raymond Tetreau, Chas. Dumont, Dr. N. J. Kuzyk, Alphonse Tetreau, Margaret Stanton, Oleh Sokoluk, Eugene Demkiw, Don Mazankowski, Wm. Lemiski, Eugene Horon, Mike Kawulich, Sam Brault, George Tetreau, Dr. J. Stefancik, Daniel Dubuc, Lowell Starko, Terry Yakimyshyn.

Secretary-Treasurers include: Fr. Bernier and Bazin, J. E. Fox, Halley Stanton, Mary Bender, Raymond Tetreau, Neil Cassidy, Wm. Luhoway, Don McGillivray, Mike Kawulich, Eugene Horon and Chester Novakowski. The school board has cooperated with teachers in encouraging academic excellence, overlaid with religious, patriotic, and cultural values. The Board had regularly presented honor pins and achievement awards and encouraged field trips. Prizes have also been donated by numerous local organizations; Rotary or Lions trips have been won by students: Emil Plouffe, Lorraine Plouffe, Bonnie Hantiuk, Beth Smolyk, Janet Semeniuk, Rejeanne Benoit, Terry Yakimyshyn, Richard Beaudette, Lucille Landry, Diane Dubuc, Terry Beaudette. In 1957, Delia Tetreau won the Governor General's Award for highest marks in Grade Nine. Sports have always been important, even in the early days when basketball was played on a rough outdoor court and the coaching nuns were hampered by their



Dr. N. J. Kuzyk presenting the John Philip Sousa Band Award to Claudette Benoit, student from St. Martin's School, 1963.

non-athletic garb. More recently a full-time Phys. Ed. instructor, Harold Mori, serves both Catholic schools and has developed a great participation program as well as many winning teams.

A Catholic Home and School Association was started in 1955 and was active for some twenty years; an outgrowth of this was the St. Martin's Drum and Bugle band, taught by Sam Smolyk and Jos. Dubuc, and the Majorettes whose main leaders were Claudette Benoit and Margaret Collins. For several years this group entertained in Vegreville and district and was regrettably disbanded due to lack of funds. In 1979, serving its third generation of such families as Tetreaus and Dubucs, St. Martin's School is the only original school remaining in Vegreville; it is hoped that this sturdy old structure will be preserved for future historic interest.

Memories of Old St. Martin's

— "Rum" Nadeau presiding over the fiery furnace room in the old school cellar.



St. Martin's School students, 1946.

- dark hallways in the first convent where ghosts were said to walk.
- the rigid but imaginary division between the boys' yard and the girls' yard.
- farm girls, having ridden horseback to school, changing from overalls to skirts in Tetreau's icy barn. (Slacks were a NO! NO! until about 1960.)
- the old hand bell being rung out vigorously from the balcony (now removed).
- the rigid military line-up marching in after each recess.
- trespassing into the lofty, creaky, fascinating attic.
- patched plaster still visible on the underside of a staircase, forty years after it crashed when the high school boys held one of their wild chases during the noon-time absence of the supervising Sisters.
- home-run specialist Johnny Hantiuk hitting the long one right through the window pane into his Grade Nine classroom.
- avid scientist Mike Petaske proving that undiluted sulfuric acid dropped on the palm would render that hand useless for writing a Chemistry exam.
- rollicking evenings spent at whist parties and staging plays in the upstairs hall, the sole parish meeting place in the 30's.
- the old fire-escape chute (fortunately never called into serious usage).

History of St. Mary's Catholic School — 1964

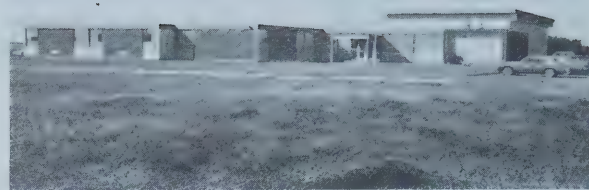
written by M. Tomin in 1964

St. Mary's School, a modern building in the southwest part of town, was built to accommodate the increasing school enrollment of St. Martin's School District. The Board of Trustees had consulted Father Kinderwater before initiating plans for construction of a separate unit.

Land was purchased from Mr. Joe Homenick. Later, additional land along the east boundary of the first parcel of land was purchased from Mrs. Hohn. Approval from the Department of Education was then obtained to build a new school which would have an overall area of 17,000 square feet. The unit was to contain seven classrooms, staffroom, infirmary, offices, storage room, caretaker's room, a kitchenette, and a gymnasium.

The architectural firm of Olekshy and Associates was engaged to draw the plans. Tenders were called and Forest Construction Ltd., of Edmonton was awarded the contract to build the school at a quarter of a million dollars.

The members of the school board decided that,



St. Mary's School, built in 1964. Photo 1979.



The attractive mosaic mural fronting St. Mary's School, 1979.

originally, the school would operate with the elementary grades, but would introduce instruction in higher grades when this warranted it.

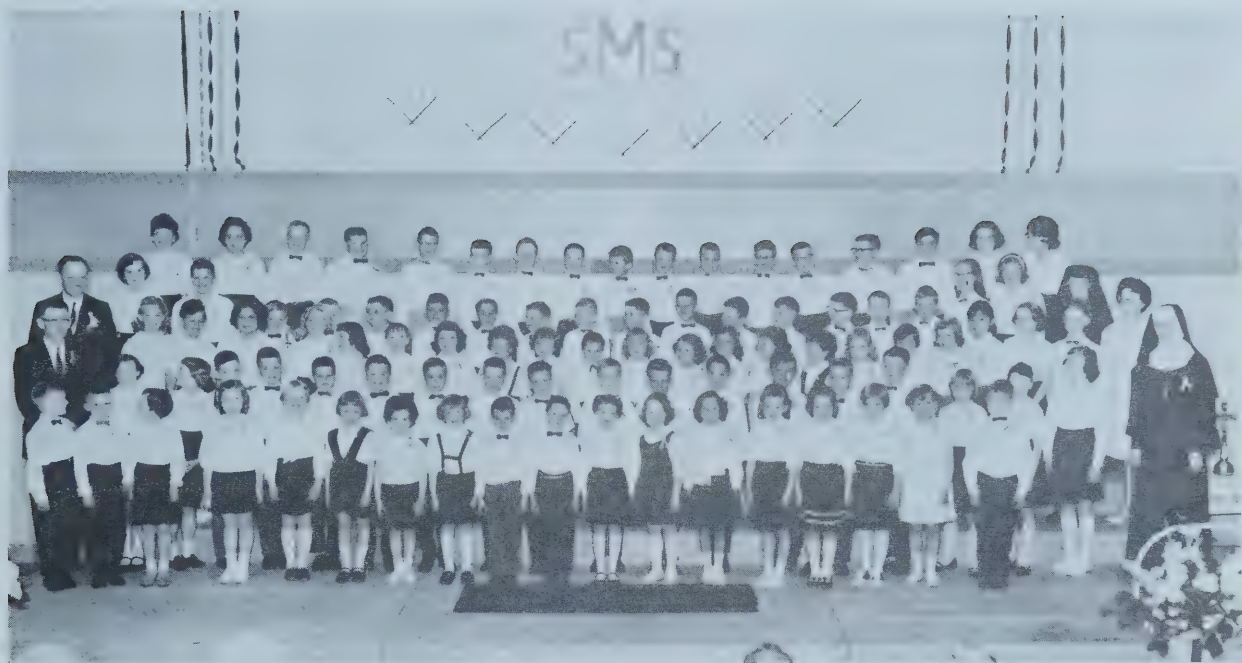
Mr. M. H. Tomin was appointed principal for the new school.

The construction of the new school began in June, 1964. During the first two months, construction proceeded at an accelerated pace and was well ahead of schedule, but later, heavy rains hindered progress considerably. The school was not fully completed until early 1965.

In September, 1964, the five elementary classes



St. Mary's School. First staff — 1964. (l. to r.) — Sister Margaret; Sister Gertrude; Michael Tomin, principal; George Cucheran, Mrs. Madeleine Beninger.



St. Mary's School Official Opening — students and teachers, 1965.

were billeted in different places — two classes in the basement of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, with Mr. M. Tomyn teaching grade six and Mr. G. Cucheran grades five and six; one class in the Ukrainian Sisters' Residence with Sister Margaret teaching grades three and four; one class in St. Martin's School with Mrs. Beninger teaching grades two and three; and one class in the Ukrainian Parish Hall where Sister Gertrude taught grades one and two.

The teachers and pupils moved into the new school in November, 1964, and instructions were carried on in the classrooms that were completed, while the rest of the school was being finished. By the spring of 1965, the new school was a reality. In May, 1965, the official opening of the school took place.

The new school offered a convenience that more than compensated for the inconvenience experienced during the initial stage of construction. The school is of block and brick construction, with the exterior and interior beautifully finished with tile.

The architectural beauty of the school, and the diligent work emanating from the institution, are a credit to the community. The "vision" of the school board and parents has become a fruitful reality.

1980 — St. Mary's School Staff —

Michael H. Tomyn, Principal

Sister Cecilia

Joan O'Brien

Elsie Mudryk

Nellie Sribney

Ann Novakowski

Harold Mori

Elsie Bruder

Official Opening of St. Mary's School

The official opening of St. Mary's School took place on Sunday, May 16, 1965, at 3:00 P.M., with His Excellency, Neil Savaryn, O.S.B.M., Bishop from Edmonton, and Honorable R. McKinnon, Minister of Education, playing key roles. First, Most Reverend Bishop Neil Savaryn blessed the school grounds. This was followed by the cutting of the ribbon by Honorable R. McKinnon. Next, His Excellency proceeded with the blessing of the school; then the proceedings moved into the auditorium.

The program in the auditorium featured the following: singing of O' Canada; welcome by his Worship, Mayor John Koshuta; welcome song by the students; singing by the Holy Trinity Church choir; message by Mr. A. W. Gordey, M.L.A.; message by Mr. M. Gault, Superintendent of Schools; address by Mr. R. McKinnon, Minister of Education; presentation of picture by Mr. McKinnon to Mr. M. Tomyn, Principal; vote of thanks by Rev. Father E. McCarty; presentation of a portrait of the Queen by Mrs. Marg. Cikaliuk, on behalf of the Ada I. Wright Chapter, I.O.D.E., to principal Mr. Tomyn; expression of thanks by Mr. Tomyn to the speakers for their participation, the students for their contributions, and the audience for their attendance; singing of God Save the Queen to conclude the platform program.

Tea was served — courtesy of the Vegreville Catholic Home and School Association.

Old Vegreville School District No. 44

- April 1, 1895 the Vegreville Roman Catholic Public School District No. 44 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 19, 30 and 31 in Township 51, Range 14; Sections 6 and 7, in Township 52, Range 14; Sections 21-28 and 33-36, in Township 51, Range 15; and Sections 1-4 and 9-12, in Township 42, Range 15, all West of the Fourth Meridian.
- October 23, 1901 the sum of four hundred fifty dollars was borrowed for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting and furnishing a school house and building out-houses.
- April 25, 1905 the following lands were withdrawn: West halves of Sections 4 and 9, in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- April 12, 1906 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 7 in Township 52, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.



Old Vegreville School, 1923. In doorway Napoleon Forcade. Back row (l. to r.) — Adrian Robert, Beatrice Robert, Arthur Barrie, Bergetto Brandle, Bertha Plouffe, Kathrine Brandle, Lorretta Robert. Front row (l. to r.) — Roger Bienvenue, Philip Forcade, Gerard Plouffe, Paul Plouffe, Adolf and Emelia Poulin, Margaret Plouffe, M. Louise Bienvenue.



Old Vegreville School, 1934-35.

- December 21, 1920 the following lands were withdrawn: North-east quarter of Section 9, in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- May 18, 1922 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 36, east half of Section 24, north half and south-east quarter of Section 25, in Township 51, Range 15; east half of Section 1, in Township 52, Range 15; Section 19, 30 and 31, in Township 51, Range 14; Section 6 in Township 52, Range 14; all West of the Fourth Meridian.
- July 30, 1929 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 21, and the south half of Section 28, in Township 51, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- February 22, 1934 the following lands were added: North-west quarter of Section 36, in Township 51, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- November 1, 1937 the Vegreville Roman Catholic Public School District No. 44 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- September 21, 1944 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 12, in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- August 28, 1958 the name of the Vegreville Roman Catholic Public School District No. 44 was changed to the Old Vegreville School District No. 44.
- March 23, 1959 the sale of the site of the Old Vegreville School District No. 44 was given approval.

(Below by Aurore Robert and Mina Albrecht)

This school was built in 1902 on church property 35-51-15. Mr. J. Poulin hauled lumber by wagon from Edmonton to build this school.

Early settlers were Joseph Poulin, Benoit Tetreault, and Letourneux families. They came in March 1894 from Kansas and Theo Theroux and Octave Haule came from British Columbia the same year.

In 1894 the first post office was built and a log church in 1901 with Father Bernier being the first priest. The first person to be buried in the church yard was Elmina Haule. Mrs. J. Poulin was also buried there. A gravestone was put on the plot in remembrance of all buried there. It can be seen behind the present school yard.

The first teacher was Miss Doyle. She moved to the Vegreville School in 1904 and taught for the sisters and later also became a sister. Some of the other teachers were Miss Beathem, Mr. Monaham, Mrs. Eva Cole, Miss Charlebois, Mrs. Glenn Shaw, and Miss Bolan.



Old Vegreville country school, 1953. Top (l. to r.) — Winston Gereliuk, Herman Eberhardt, Norman Zaseybida, Mr. Wier, Walter Polutranko, ?, ?, Alvin Zaseybida. Middle row (l. to r.) — Wilma Gereliuk, Dorothy Yakimyshyn, Laura Eberhardt, Pat Klymochko, Miss Klymochko, ?, Miss Gereliuk, Caroline Yakimyshyn, Mercy Hunchak, Blanch Robert, Mr. Neil Cassidy — teacher. Bottom row (l. to r.) — Florence Yakimyshyn, Teresa Klymochko, Freddie Mayer Jr., Dale Collison, Dennis Zaseybida, Gevin Collison, Harry Eberhardt, Kurt Mast, Wayne Langpap, Joe Gereliuk.

During the depression there was no school tax paid.

Some trustees were Lemuel Cole, Oscar Benoit and Hans Mayer. The school burnt down in January



School Group, Old Vegreville — Summer of 1911. Back row (l. to r.) — George Whittaker, Smith and Joe Baxandall, others unknown. Middle row (l. to r.) — John, Willie and Park Baxandall; Susan Baxandall is third from right. Others unknown.

1938. The children had school in Mayer's house till weather permitted the building of a temporary school. During the holidays the present school was built.

In 1954 the school was closed and the children were bussed to Vegreville. The school is now used for an active community centre.

Fairwood School District No. 725

- August 14, 1902 the Fairwood School District No. 725 was established comprising of the following lands: the north halves of Sections 21-24, Sections 25-28, 33-36, in Township 53, Range 14; Sections 1-4, 9-12 and the south halves of Sections 13-16, in township 54, Range 14; all West of the Fourth Meridian.
- December 29, 1921 the following lands were withdrawn: the north halves of Sections 21-24, in Township 53, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- August 3, 1928, the sum of four thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for

the purpose of erecting and equipping a new frame school house.

- Treasurer at the time was R. H. Woods of Warwick, Alberta.
- April 6, 1929 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 12 and the south halves of Sections 13 and 14, in Township 54, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian, and the following lands were added: West half of Section 30 and the south-west quarter of Section 31, in Township 53, Range 13; West of the fourth Meridian.
- November 1, 1937 the Fairwood School District No. 725 was included in Subdivision No. 1 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- July 24, 1943 the following land was added: One acre immediately west of the present School site.
- December 8, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Fairwood School District No. 725 to the Wolia School District No. 2591: West half of Section 30 and the south-west quarter of Section 31, in Township 55, Range 15; Also the following lands were transferred from the Ben's Lake School District No. 4409 to the Fairwood School District No. 725: Section 12, in Township 54, Range 14; Also the following lands were transferred from Fairwood School District No. 725 to Hairy Hill School District: South half of Section 15 and the south half of Section 16, in Township 54, Range 14; All West of the Fourth Meridian.

- October 27, 1955 site and buildings of the Fairwood School District No. 725 were approved for sale.



Fairwood Farm Forum Group having a picnic at Vermilion Park, 1956.



Jim and Ada Hughston — V.E. day, 1945. (See p. 559.)



Tom and Esther Hughston, 1920's. (See p. 559.)



Walter and Opal Gafka and four daughters: Loretta, Judy, Brenda and Sharlene, 1960's (See p. 483.)

— September 15, 1964 the Fairwood School District No. 725 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

Fairwood School is located ten miles north and four miles east of Vegreville on the Vermilion River. It was built in 1905 and was named after Robert Fairbairn and William Woods.

One of the first teachers was Miss M. Kennedy in 1910 and the record books show her salary at \$50.00 a month. The trustees at that time were D. McFarlane, A. Hogman, C. W. Moore and T. J. Hughston. E. H. Wynn — McKenzie was secretary-treasurer and his salary was \$40.00 a year. Emma Woods was caretaker for \$10.50 a month

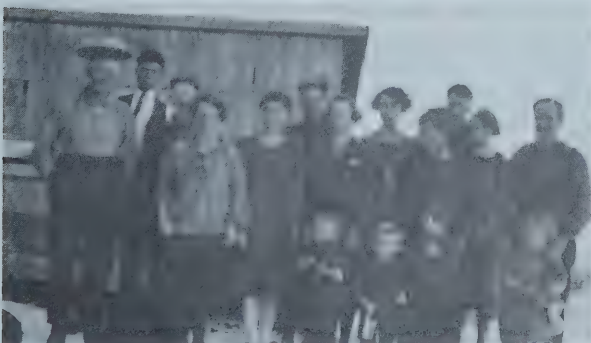
1911 — Mr. McQuillan was hired as teacher and Miss P. Mahaffy cleaned the school for \$3.00 a month.

1912 — Mr. McQuillan to get \$60.00 a month and 25¢ each morning for lighting fires.

March 1, 1913 — Rate of taxation was to be 4½ cents per acre.

The school was insured for \$600.00 and its contents \$275.00 for three years.

Ada Moore asked for \$5.00 to do janitor work and was asked on what grounds she claimed the extra amount. They hired Cora Hughston for \$2.95 a month.



Tom and Esther Hughston and family, 1920's. (See p. 559.)

November 15, 1913 — Axel Anderson received \$2.00 per cord of wood cut twelve inches long and delivered to the school.

January 1914 — McFarlane elected to fill Wynn-McKenzie's position. Taxes went up to 5¢ per acre. The church was given free use of the school.

October 23, 1918 — School closed by order of the school board until December 2nd because of the epidemic of the Spanish flu.

1919 — Moved that ratepayers who were serving overseas be given free taxes for this year.

Scholars must pay for broken windows or other property destroyed by them.

Some names of people who paid taxes in those



Fairwood Ladies Aid, at Roscoe Woods, 1942.



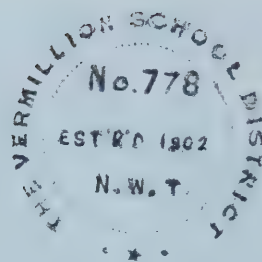
United Church group in front of Fairwood School, about 1940, Rev. Cantelon was minister.



Gathering of the Fairwood clan, around 1935.



Fairwood School children, 1938. Teacher was Jean Gibson (upper right).



Seal of the Vermillion School District. Est'D 1902. N.W.T.

days were Mr. Campbell, Mr. Pugh, T. J. Hughston, McFarlane, G. Northup, R. Fairbairn, Berlinguette, J. McKay, M. Bradshaw, Wynn-McKenzie, Hogman, R. Woods, S. Bushko, J. Bednall, J. Mahaffey, R. Chandler, A. Anderson, C. Moore, G. Smith, Geo. Cochran, John Fontaine, Philip Gafka, H. Theroux, W. A. Woods, P. Thompson, Bronkan, A. E. Terrherry, T. Leach and Mr. White.

Mr. McQuillan taught until 1923. Mrs. Milo Ferguson taught part of 1924 and came back in 1926.

Vi Hayter taught in 1929-32, then married R. Woods. They lived on the Woods farm until 1945 when they sold to Walter and Opal Gafka and left for Inverness, Montana.

Other teachers were B. Link, McFaggen, Jean Gibson, Flo McDonald, Jeanette McCutcheon and Vera Bushko. They taught from 1929 until 1950 and boarded with Jim and Ada Hughston.

In 1950 a teacherage was brought in and Olga Horon was the first one to occupy it. After her came her sister Lillian Horon, then Alex Kozmak, Wm. Cherniawski and Mike Petruk. Mr. Petruk was the last teacher when the school closed in 1954 and the pupils were bused to Vegreville. Mr. Frederking was the bus driver.

Some of the people living in the district then were H. Bruce, J. Teare, Jim Hughston, D. Hughston, D. Pugh, Lupuls, B. Kitz, W. Gafka, Czars, Barons, McKenzies, Bosse's, Buziks, Cymbaluks, Ewaniuks, Plishkas and Bialuks.

The school was turned into an active Community Center for several years. Power, etc., was installed, but now, in 1979, it is still there but not in use.

Vermillion School District No. 778

Est'b'd 1902 — N. W. T.

by Dorothy (Lowe) Sanford

This school was located approximately four miles west of Vegreville on the N. E. corner of the NE ¼ of Sec. 20-52-15 West of the 4th meridian. The first entry in the first minute book is on February 4, 1903.

Regina, Monday, January 12, 1903.

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of The School Ordinance in that behalf, that, by order of the Commissioner of Education, the following lands, namely: Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and the west halves of Sections 14, 23, 26 and 35 in Township 52 Range 15, and the east halves of Sections 13, 24, 25 and 36 in Township 52 Range 16 west of the Fourth Meridian have been erected into a School District under the name of The Vermillion School District No. 778 of the North-West Territories.

J. A. CALDER,
Deputy Commissioner of Education.

THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES GAZETTE

Regina, , Thursday, January 15, 1903.

Volume 20. #1. Page 3,

Item from North West Territories Gazette. 1903.

There is no indication of how the name was chosen or the location. The first Board of Trustees:

Chairmen — A. G. Harlan

Sec. Treas. — G. W. Abbott

Trustees — W. E. Wagner and A. W. Wilson.

The main topic of business at this Annual Meeting was to pass a by-law to enable the Board to borrow seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) for the purpose of erecting a suitable building and furnishing same with the necessary equipment for conducting a modern school. This loan to be repaid with interest at eight per centum per annum.

February 21, 1903 — The Board met to decide what kind of a building was needed. "It was ordered by the Board that a frame edifice be erected of the size of 28 ft. wide and 36 ft. long, the height of the ceiling to be as great as a 12 ft. stud will make, with eight windows, four on each side, two doors, a cloakroom extending across one end inside the building and a teacher's platform extending across the other, about seven or eight ft. wide."

"The interior shall be ceiled with a building paper laying underneath on the studs and on the outside shall be cedar shiplap covered with two layers of paper and all to be covered with cedar lapsiding, the paper on the outside to extend over the entire roof."

The Annual Meeting on Jan. 5, 1904 was held at the home of Thomas Ryan. The ratepayers present were:

Bill Plovyke	A. W. Wilson
Thomas Kassian	Jesse Bowen
James Wilson	A. G. Harlan
Geo. W. Abbott	Andre Macoeiy
Clarence Abbott	Govrella Gekure
Mikoli Segawois	William A. Jones
Mikoli Homiyuke	Thomas Ryan

March 19, 1904 — Lumber for the School Building was bought from Cushing Bros. of Edmonton for \$387.85. Freight for this order was \$156.80. It was ordered by the Board that the sum of 3 ¾ cents per acre be levied for taxes.

The district boundaries were two miles north, two miles south and two and one-half east and west, twenty sections of land. The tax roll of 1904 indicates that all land was taken and there were forty-six ratepayers. Although Alberta was not yet a province, many gave their address as Vegreville, Alberta. Some of the land owners lived at:

Edmonton, Alberta
Ottawa, Ontario
Woodstock, Ontario
The Dalles, Oregon
Longburn, Manitoba
Milwaukee, Wis.
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Avon, Ill.
Edgar, Nebraska
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Taxes collected for the year were \$403.50.

The first teacher was Mr. Fred J. Laurence and he was hired to conduct instruction for a period of seven months, beginning with the first day of June and concluding December 31, 1904 for \$50.00 per month.

April 15, 1904 — Tenders had been called for the construction of the school building. Only one was received and this was accepted. George W. Abbott's bid was \$136.00, but it was decided to make the

building smaller (20 ft. x 30 ft.) so Mr. Abbott agreed to reduce his tender to \$134.00.

July 16, 1904 — The first meeting held in the school which was inspected and found satisfactory. Payment to the contractor was authorized. Also a bill of 45 cents for crayons and erasers was approved.

Jan. 16, 1905 — The Board was having financial difficulties and so decided to levy a tax of 6¼ cents per acre.

Jan. 8, 1906 — The sum of \$5.00 was paid to Mr. Clarence Abbott for one-half acre of land in the NE corner of NE 20-52-15 W4. Taxes levied, 5 cents per acre. It was ordered that the ratepayers desiring to have shelter for a horse be permitted to construct a stable of lumber with a sloping roof. Each will be allowed 4 ft. by 12 ft. and must pay one half of the cost of supplies and transportation and all the cost of construction.

Jan. 31, 1906 — Paid Cole and Abbott 90 cents for: Broom — 40 cents, Pail — 35 cents, Cup — 15 cents. The library grant for 1906 was \$16.75.

Jan. 17, 1907 — Miss Winnie Moore asked to be released from her contract because she could not find a suitable boarding place. There is no indication if she had taught.

Dec. 24, 1907 — The Board decided John Tomashuske (he must have been a non-resident) should pay tuition for his boy at the rate of 2 cents per day.

Jan. 11, 1908 — The school name is spelled Vermilion with one "L" and hereafter is not consistent.

Jan. 18, 1908 — Taxes are 6¼ cents per acre. Teacher is Mr. Neil Ross.

Dec. 26, 1908 — The school had been closed 19 days during July and August because of the sickness of the teacher, Miss Fullerton. The Board decided to ask her to teach half the number of days lost, in the holidays, starting January 18, 1909.

1909 — Teacher E. E. Hyde.

Jan. 17, 1910 — Taxes 5 ½ cents per acre. Teacher M. A. Stone.

July 12, 1910 — The Board decided to build a house for the teacher. (12 ft. by 14 ft.) There were two tenders. Thomas Leusk — \$150.00 and K. R. MacArthur — \$130.00. The latter was accepted.

March 7, 1911 — Teacher, Robert McKinnon advised Board that owing to unavoidable circumstances he would not be able to fulfill his contract. He recommended A. W. Trefrey who taught until September 21, 1911. Taxes were 6 ¼ cents per acre. Ed. Robertson bought the quarter the school was on, and this land was described as 158 ½ acres. Accordingly his tax was reduced from \$10.00 to \$9.90.

March 4, 1912 — Secretary was to interview Miss



Pupils of "new" Vermilion School, about 1930.

Phone 4828

E. N. Moyer Company, Limited

Established
1884

SALESMAN Ma
SHIPPED TO Vegreville, Alta.,
VIA C.P.R. Frt.
P.O. Vegreville, Alta.,
DATE SHIPPED May 14, 15.

665 FOURTH ST.

EDMONTON

WINNIPEG

TORONTO

ALWAYS REFER TO THIS
NUMBER

Our No 5E-900.

SCHOOL FURNITURE - SCHOOL SUPPLIES - OPERA CHAIRS - CHURCH FURNITURE

Sold to Vermilion S.D. # 778, Per Mr. W.A. Jones Sec. Treas., Edmonton, May 14/15.
P.O. Vegreville, Alberta. Edmonton, Alta.

Agents are not authorized to collect

F.O.B.C. Edmonton, Alta.

All claims against this bill must be made upon receipt of goods

TERMS Cash.

4 Double Desks #1 @ \$5.40
2 " " #2 @ \$5.40
2 Sections for a Macey Book Case #4 @ \$5.15
Special War Tax

21	60
10	80
10	30
2	56

\$45 26

2312

IF PAYMENT IS MADE BY CHEQUE EXCHANGE MUST BE ADDED

Order for school desks. 1915.



Cheque for supplies. 1911.

E. N. Moyer Company, Limited
"Canada's School Furnishers"
665 Fourth Street
Edmonton, - Alberta

May 17/15.

Mr. W.A. Jones,
Vegreville, Alberta.

Dear Sir:-

We are in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 13th inst., with order enclosed, for which accept our thanks. We are pleased to advise you that these goods went forward by C.N.R. Freight to Vegreville and we trust the same reach you in due time and open to your entire satisfaction.

Attached hereto you will find Bill of Lading and Invoice, which we trust are entirely satisfactory. We also wish to state that the Book Case section we shipped was finished in a Golden Oak and we are not sure whether this ^{is} what you require or not as you did not state in your letter what color you wanted it.

Trusting to be favored with a continuance of your esteemed patronage and assuring you of our prompt attention to all your future requests, we remain,

Very truly yours,

E. N. MOYER COMPANY LTD.,

Per. *E. N. Moyer*
President

Dict
JL.

Letter from E. N. Moyer. 1915.

C. J. McCallum and engage her if satisfactory so school could start early in March.

March 21, 1913 — Mary E. Smith was hired at \$60.00 per month.

May 24, 1913 — A fence will be built around the school yard. Cedar fence posts 16 cents each. One ten-foot iron gate and one small iron gate will be installed.

Oct. 13, 1913 — Owing to the difficulty of obtaining firewood it was decided to purchase a stove suitable for coal and purchase a load of coal.

Jan. 18, 1914 — Board engaged Mr. William Nixon at \$65.00 per month to teach school, starting on January 26 until June 30th. Inspector of Schools was Mr. Butchart.

Jan. 11, 1915 — Teacher, Miss Layton was hired at

\$65.00 per month, shack and firing free. Vacation to be five weeks commencing June 28th.

July 16, 1915 — Mr. C. M. Ried engaged at \$60.00 per month to teach from August 2 to December 23.

1916 — Teacher Chas M. Reed. Vacation to be 5 weeks in summer.

April 24, 1916 — Teacher Louise M. Hyde at \$65.00 per month. Duties to commence May 2nd.

July 21, 1916 — It was decided the School and buildings should be painted and there were two tenders: T. H. Briggs for \$55.00, Jack Hawke for \$75.00. The tender of Mr. Briggs was accepted and he was to apply 2 coats, inside and out on the school house, 2 coats inside and out on teacher's house, 2 coats outside stable and closets. Paint was obtained from Morton Hardware at \$3.20 per gallon.



MONTHLY STATEMENT

Capital Authorized, \$150,000.00

TO **ONTARIO**
WINNIPEG
EDMONTON

EDMONTON
Winnipeg, Man.,

Sept. 1 1915

E. N. MOYER COMPANY, LIMITED

Canada's School Furnishers

Sold to *Vermillion* S. D. No. *778*
Sec'y-Treas. *W. A. Jones*
P.O. *Vegreville* Prov. *Alta*

Cheques must be made payable at par at our Office.

TERMS: 60 days Net.
Over 60 days, 8% per annum will be charged.

DATE	ORDER NO.	Salesmen Not Authorized to Collect	INT.
<i>May 14</i>	<i>1X3239</i>	<i>No acct send</i>	<i>45 26</i>
<i>Sept 1</i>		<i>1 1/2 Months Debt</i>	<i>45</i>
			<i>\$ 45.71</i>

PAID OCT 22 1915

Do not fail to enclose this Statement with remittance to be receipted.

2374

E. N. MOYER CO. LTD.
Per *Ed Smith*

Statement. 1915.

Dec. 23, 1916 — Miss Stanton was hired as teacher at \$720.00 per year.

Jan. 2, 1917 — The Board bought a furnace from Waterman, Waterburg Mfg.

Nov. 16, 1917 — One dozen Molthrop chairs, Model "B" for \$10.50 each.

Dec. 17, 1917 — Miss Mary J. Stanton was engaged to teach in 1918 at \$70.00 per month.

Jan. 7, 1918 — A stable 12 x 18 will be built by Alberta Lumber Co. for \$125.00. Six bracket lamps were bought for \$7.10. Taxes were set at 10 cents per acre.

Aug. 4, 1918 — Board hired Mrs. Agnes McLaughlin at \$75.00 per month. School will commence August 12.

Oct. 25, 1918 — School was closed on account of Spanish Influenza.

1919 — Teacher Miss Bertha Jennings, \$75.00 per month. Duties to commence Jan. 6, 1919.

July 24, 1919 — Teacher Miss Dobson, \$90.00 per month.

1920 — Ernest S. Ames, \$1200.00 per year.

1921 — Ernest S. Ames. J. C. Butchart, Inspector of Schools.

1922 — Agnes R. M. Bremner, \$1100.00 per year. H. D. Cartwright, Inspector of Schools.

1923 — W. T. Cromb Jr. 1050.00 per year. M. E. Lazerte, Inspector of Schools.

Aug. 31, 1925-June 22, 1926 — W. T. Cromb Jr., O. Williams, Inspector of Schools. Boundaries were altered slightly in 1926.

1927 to 1929 — E. G. Bowen was the teacher.

1929 to 1930 — H. C. Appleby was the teacher.

Old school registers provide a wealth of information. It can often be noted that some of the pupils are older than their classmates, indicating they did not have the opportunity to begin school as soon as the others.

In one term, school started the last day of August with 19 students and increased to 32 by June; the district was attracting more settlers.

The school was closed for Teachers' Conventions, Thanksgiving, Good Friday, Easter Holidays, Christmas Holidays, School Fair, Elections,

HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR FARM PRODUCE

Bought of **W. G. ROSS**
GENERAL MERCHANT

Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots & Shoes, Men's Clothing & Furnishings

Vegreville, Alta., 6/4/14 191

Sold to Vermillion Pk Dist

Terms Cash for no pay = 778

Sold by Got by

BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED TORONTO 55190

1	oil cloth	40
2		
3	for Teachers House	
4	Table	
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

Oil Cloth 1914.

No Corrections made or Exchanged without this Bill

SOLD BY **CLEMENTS LIMITED**
GENERAL MERCHANTS

Vegreville Alta., 191

Sold to Vermillion Pk Dist

Address 778

Got by AMOUNT RECEIVED

BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED TORONTO 10 2410

1	Dishes	95
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

Dishes 1914.

No Corrections

SOLD BY **CLEMENTS LIMITED**
GENERAL MERCHANTS

Vegreville Alta., 191

Sold to Mr Jones

Address Vermillion

Got by S. Dist AMOUNT RECEIVED

BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED TORONTO 10 2410

1	202	
2	Shirts	1.50
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

Shirts 1914.

MORTON'S HARDWARE AND HARNESS
Shen and Heavy Hardware, Paints, Oils, G s
HARNESS, SADDLERY, ETC.

PHONE 57

Vegreville, Alta., April 1914

M Vermillion Pk Dist

No 778 W.A. Jones & S. Dist

1	Ham	1.25
2	Wash Bottle	1.25
3	Wash Basin	25
4		2.75
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

Supplies for Teacher's shack. 1914.

Dec 23rd. 1919.

Vermilion S.D. 778.

To sweeping school between Nov.
26th and Dec 23rd. eighteen times.
@ .5¢.

\$1.90

Mary Kassian
Certified Correct.
Mary Dobson
Teacher.

Statement for sweeping school. 1919.

Dec. 23rd. 1919.

Vermilion S.D. 778.

To building and attending to
fire in the school house. between
Oct. 6th and Dec. 23rd. fifty
five times. @ .10¢.

\$5.50

Peter Kassian
Certified Correct.
Mary Dobson.
Teacher.

Statement for building fire. 1919.

● Vegreville, Alta. Jan 10th 1919,

Account with Vermillion S. D. #778.

W. A. Jones Esq.
Veg. Sect. - Treas.

<u>1918</u>		
Jan 26	To Hauling coal from Veg.	2. 00
Mar	" Hauling coal from B. Smith.	1. 50
Oct 23	" " " "	1. 50
<u>1819</u>		
Jan 8.	" " " "	1. 50
Jan 3.	To Banking School.	1. 00
Re Balance of Act of lighting fire		\$ 7.50
Re Bill Aug 13 th 1918		2. 50
allowed by Board of Trustees on Jan 11 th 1919		\$ 10.00

Account for work done. 1919.

Labor Day, Empire Day, on one occasion "closed on account of accident to teacher's foot" and on very cold weather.

The pupils' attendance was often poor because they were needed at home, weather was too cold, in one case all students from one family were quarantined. Another entry indicates pupil absent because of an operation.

As the population increased, the original school soon became overcrowded and another was built. The new school had a basement with a cement floor and a furnace room. There were two cloakrooms and indoor toilets, a real luxury. All windows were on one side of the classroom and because students spent too much time looking out, the bottom panes were painted over to prevent this. Again, the increase in population required more room so the old school was reopened. The primary grades remained in the new school and higher grades were accommodated in the old school.

In November, 1937 all schools in this area were

formed into the Vegreville School Division and in February, 1938 all assets were turned over to the Division as well as all liabilities.

Some of the teachers, during this time were; Hilda Knies, Mona Casson, Nadia Svarich, Mary Hawryluk, Mike Lemiski, George Hosking, Bob Henley, Mrs. Mary Kudryk, (formerly Mary Hawryluk).

In June 1942 the name of the school was changed from Vermillion to Ryan. The order was signed by the Minister of Education, William Aberhart.

When school opened for the 1943 term (on October 12th) there was only one room in operation.

Delegations from Royal Park in 1944 asked to have the original school moved to their hamlet to provide accommodation for the pupils of that area. There was no action taken on this proposal and soon the school building was demolished.

The school census for the 1950-51 term (Mrs. Mary Kudryk — teacher) indicates there were 34 pupils.

Edmonton, June 30, 1942

As provided by Section 44, Subsection 5 of The School Act, 1931, I hereby direct that the name of the VERMILION School District No. 778, of the Province of Alberta, be altered, and that from and after the date hereof the said District shall be known under the name of the RYAN School District No. 778, of the Province of Alberta

William Aberhart

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Letter from Minister of Education. 1942.

Finally, the schools surrounding Vegreville were centralized and pupils were bussed to town. This arrangement has many advantages but the original one-roomed schools with eight grades will always be remembered fondly by those who attended.

Thanks to Mr. Gorrie for his cooperation in providing some of this information.

Highlow School District No. 816

According to the North West Territories Gazette, the Highlow School District was formed on March 30, 1903.

On December 30, 1903, the school ordinance of Regina authorized the board of trustees of the Highlow School District No. 816 of the North West Territories to borrow the sum of \$800.00 for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house. Mr. M. McCusker of Vegreville was the Secretary-Treasurer.

The Highlow School was located on Mr. D. J. Callahan's land being N.W. 19-52-13- W4. This was right in the centre of the district.

There were thirteen children of school age at the time. The settlers of this area were: G. Mohr, J. Barlott, M. Mohr, J. Spak, J. Hughes, J. McEacheran, R. Riemer, D. J. Callahan, C. C. Ward, E. B. Wager, Mrs. Wills, Frisby, D. C. Kennedy and H. McAreavy.

In June 20, 1929, the public utility commissioners authorized the board of trustees of the Highlow School to borrow the sum of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of building a new one-room frame school house (on the same site).

On January 9, 1932, the annual meeting of the ratepayers was held. D. W. Hughes was elected as chairman by acclamation for another year.

In 1933 the chairman of the ratepayers of Highlow School District was D. W. Hughes. Secretary-



Highlow School. Teacher Hugh McKellar, 1907.



Highlow School No. 816, built in 1904. Lumber was shipped from Edmonton via Saskatchewan River to Duvernay, and hauled to its site on NW 19-52-13-W4.

Treasurer was D. A. Kennedy, trustee was Chris Schneider. In 1934 and 1935 the slate of officers was the same with the exception of Peter Stecyk elected as trustee in 1934.

At the annual meeting in 1935, it was suggested that Highlow join with Lavoy in a rural high school. This idea was rejected. In 1937, A. Anderson was elected trustee.

In 1938, Chris Schneider was elected chairman with D. A. Kennedy as the secretary-treasurer. D. W. Hughes and Mrs. P. E. Callahan were voted as trustees.

In 1950, the Highlow School was closed and the school children were bussed into Vegreville.

In 1951, permission was requested by the local area members to form a Community Centre and buy the school and land. In 1952, this request to form or establish this Community Centre was approved and the school and land were sold for the sum of \$10.00.

Nuttborough School District No. 870

July 14, 1903 the Nuttborough School District No. 870 was established comprising of the following lands; Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, and the west halves of Sections 5, 8, 17, and 20 in Township 52, Range 12; and Sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-24 and the east halves of Sections 4, 9, 16 and 21, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

December 9, 1903 the sum of eight hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing a school site and building and furnishing a school house.

Treasurer at the time was Geo. Walz, Dinwoodie, Alberta.

February 13, 1907 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 3 and the east halves of Sections 4 and 9, in Township 52, Range 13: West of the Fourth Meridian.

March 12, 1919 the following lands were withdrawn: the east half of Section 16, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian; and the following lands were added: Section 25, in Township 52, Range 13 Section 30 and the south-west quarter of Section 29, in Township 52, Range 12; West of the Fourth Meridian.

April 30, 1928 the sum of four thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building and equipping a school and installing a furnace.

Treasurer at the time was F. E. Vancott, of Lavoy, Alberta

December 20, 1928 the following lands were added: South-east quarter of Section 26, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

November 1, 1937 the Nuttborough School District No. 870 was included in Subdivision No. 1 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19

November 22, 1945 the following lands were withdrawn: The south-east quarter of Section 21, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

October 27, 1965 sale of site and buildings of the Nuttborough School District No. 870 was approved.

January 13, 1961 the following lands were transferred from the Nuttborough School District No. 870 to the Lavoy School District: North-east quarter of Section 21, in Township 52, Range 13; Also the following lands were added: East halves of Sections 5, 8, 17, and 20, in Township 52, Range 12; all West of the Fourth Meridian.

September 15, 1964 the Nuttborough School District No. 870 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below story by Grace Hubbard)

The first Nuttborough school was built about 1903 or 1904. It was the 870th school to be built in the Province. The lumber for the school was freighted from Edmonton. The school was named after R. R. McNutt, one of the first settlers of the district. His homestead was S.E. 24-52-13-W4th.

A new school was built in 1928. The first Nuttborough School was sold to Peter Stubbs who moved it intact to the Village of Lavoy. It still stands and is the home of Allan Milligan.

Nuttborough School held its last classes in June of 1954.

Some of the teachers who taught at Nuttborough: the first was Miss Maggie Clark, others were Priscilla Briggs, Miss Matheson, Miss Rutherford, Miss Mast, Mrs. Turnbull, Mr. Southerland, Mr. J. E. Campbell, Edith Briggs, Mae Thompson and Anabelle Ashmore. The last teacher was George Spak.

At one time from Grade One to Grade Ten was taught to over forty pupils.

Nuttborough district members tried to keep the last school intact by forming a Community Centre but due to lack of interest the building was eventually sold and demolished.

Adams School District No. 890

— September 14, 1903 the Adams School District No. 890 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 1-4, 9-16 and 21-28, in Township 50, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was P. P. Kjosness, of Vegreville, Alberta.

— December 9, 1903 the sum of eight hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the said district, for the purpose of purchasing a school site and building and furnishing a school house.

— Treasurer at the time was P. P. Kjosness, of Vegreville, Alberta.

— October 11, 1913 the sum of four hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district, for the purpose of improving and equipping school house.

— Treasurer at the time was S. J. Langum, of Holden, Alberta.

— July 9, 1924 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 1, south half and north-east quarter of Section 2, south-east quarter of Section 3, south half and north-east quarter of Section 12 in Township 50, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian; Also the following lands were added: South-east quarter of Section 17, in Township 50, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— December 16, 1925 the following lands were added: all of Section 5, 8, 20, 29, north half and south-west quarter of Section 17, in Township 50, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian.

— June 23, 1926 the following lands were withdrawn: Sections 5, 8, 17, 20, 29, west halves of Section 4, 9, 16, 21, in Township 50, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— May 31, 1928 the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building a new frame school house.

— Treasurer at the time was J. K. Giebelhaus, of Holden, Alberta.

— October 26, 1937 the Adams School District No. 890 was included in Subdivision No.4 of the Holden School Division No. 17.

— December 9, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Ideal School District No. 3607 to the Adams School District No. 890: Sections 32-36 in Township 50, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.



John Adam's School where Adam Giebelhaus' children got their education. About 1920.

— May 3, 1956 sale of site and buildings of the Adams School District was approved.

— December 20, 1957 Adams School District was incorporated into the County of Beaver No. 9.

(Below by Minnie Albrecht)

Adams School was built in 1904.

It was named after Adam Giebelhaus because he hauled the lumber from Edmonton to build the school.

In 1928 the present school was built.

Some of the early settlers were Kjosness', Nordstroms, Christensens, Liebrandts, Giengers, Millers, Giebelhaus', Albrechts and Wylties.

Early teachers were Mrs. Kirkwood, Mr. Hunter, E. Christensen and Mrs. Collins.

Imperial School District No. 893

— September 28, 1903 the Imperial School District was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 27-34, in Township 50, Range 14; and Sections 2-5, 8-11 and 14-17, in Township 51, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was F. C. Websdale, of Vegreville, Alberta.

— February 26, 1904 the sum of nine hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building school house and furnishing the same.

— Treasurer at the time was F. C. Websdale, of Vegreville, Alberta.

— October 11, 1906 the following lands were withdrawn: south halves of Sections 27-30, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— July 22, 1916 the following lands were withdrawn: North halves of Sections 27-30, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— September 15, 1916 the following lands were added: the north halves of Sections 27-30, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.



Imperial School Class, 1916. Teacher — Clara Reimer.

— May 18, 1922 the following lands were withdrawn: North-west quarter of Section 17 in Township 51, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— August 29, 1931 the following lands were added: North half of Section 35, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— January 27, 1933 the following lands were withdrawn: south-east quarter of Section 14, in Township 51, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— November 1, 1937 the Imperial School District No. 893 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.

— July 24, 1943 the addition of one acre to the North and East of the present site was given approval.

— October 27, 1955 sale of site and buildings of the Imperial School District No. 893 was approved.

— September 15, 1964 the Imperial School District No. 893 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

Brush Hill School by Lillian Hohn

The early pioneers in our district came from many lands. Most of them settled on homesteads and paid \$10.00 a quarter-section. After settling and erecting their homes, their desire was to form a school district and to build a school to educate their children. Some of the settlers were the Gafka's, Stroh's, Hohn's, Flewell's, Harman's, Bushko's,

Mohr's and Bronkin's. The population of our district in 1904 was one hundred.

To form a school district in 1904, the settlers had to petition the Territorial Government to organize a district in the area. The first requirement was the selection of a school committee of any three residents who lived in the district. These three people in our district were Philip Hohn, Harry Bushko and Philip Gafka, Sr.

The Brush Hill School District was named after a high bushy hill, one mile northeast of the school site. The hill was a landmark for those travelling on the St. Paul — Vegreville trail. The French people named the hill "Brouwsh", meaning small trees or buck brush. Another landmark in our community was located two miles south of the Brush Hill Church. The Indians named this hill "Frog Eared Hill", because the hill had the shape of a frog's ear.

As district after district came into being, they were given consecutive numbers and ours was 1032. Our district was four miles wide and five miles in length. The school was to be built in the centre of the district.

In May, 1904, the Brush Hill School District No. 1032 was established, comprised of the following lands: — Section 1 to 5, 8 to 17, south half of Section 20, 21, 23 and 24 in Township 53, Range 14, West of the 4th Meridian. On February 4th, 1933, the school district was altered by withdrawing the following



Brush Hill School — Class of 1920. Back row (l. to r.) — Vera Scherbarth, Clifford Flewell, Edith Mohr, Reinold Merkel, Enid Hohn, Hazel Flewell, Jacob Wagner, Esther Romeis, Ruth Romeis, Gordon Flewell, Frieda Hohn, Paul Romeis, Pauline Wagner, Peter Aronitz, Eva Sayko. Seated — Cloyd James, Gordon James, Ruth Hohn, Annie Pasieko, Cassie Sayko, Gertrude Flewell, John Hohn, Alvin Querengesser. Front row — Joe Wowk, John Pasieko, Edward Merkel, Peter Wowk, unknown, Walter Scherbarth, Harry Aronitz, Andy Sayko, Orville James, Bill Eickmeyer, Harold Querengesser, John Aronitz, unknown.

land: — South-east quarter of Section 1, Township 53, Range 14, West of the 4th Meridian. May 19th, 1933, the following and was added: — North half of Section 33, Township 52, Range 14, West of the 4th Meridian.

It was necessary to elect a Board of Trustees, which consisted of three people who lived in the district. These men were elected by those eligible to vote. The senior Trustee at the time was Samuel Bronkin.

As soon as the district was formed, funds were needed to finance it. Those funds were obtained by taxing each quarter of land. School grants from the Alberta Government were given to the districts to help finance the operating of the school. In 1906 the school tax on the John Hohn quarter of land was \$10.40. The teacher's salary was \$600.00 per annum. Board and room ranged from \$16.00 to \$20.00 a month. The teacher boarded at one of the nearby farm homes.

The Municipality of Norma was organized in 1912. The Provincial Government increased their grants. The municipalities set the tax rate and collected the taxes. Each school applied for their required operating expenses and this amount of money was turned over to the School Board.

October 11th, 1904, the Brush Hill School District No. 1032 borrowed the sum of \$800.00 for the purpose of building and equipping a school. Two and one-half acres of land was acquired from August Hartman, Sec. Treasurer was Edgar Richardson of Warwick, Alberta. The newly formed district built their first school in 1905. Lumber was hauled by team and wagon from Fort Saskatchewan. The school was a one-room, white frame building with green trim. There were three windows on each side. The entrance at the front had one window on one side of it, while the other side had hooks on which the children hung their clothes. The teacher's desk and chair were situated at the front of the schoolroom. In the corner stood an organ which was donated by the Shaw's Vegreville. In the other corner was a stand for a tin water container and tin cup. There were two blackboards covering most of the front wall. The students' desks were all double desks with inkwells. At the back of the school stood a large potbellied stove with a tin shield around it. The stove-pipes reached all the way to the front of the school where they connected with a brick chimney. A coal scuttle stood near the stove. On the walls hung maps and pictures of the reigning monarchs. In 1927 a Confederation Plaque was issued to every school. This commemorated the 60th anniversary of Canadian Confederation.



Brush Hill School — Class of 1932. top row (l. to r.) — Mike Kotanko, George Hohn, Tony Volk, Raymond Steinbach. Sixth row — Albert Hohn, Reinhold Hohn, Ernest Merkel, Edward Steinbach. Fifth row — Mike Pasieko, Wilfred Steinbach, Cecil Bradshaw, August Hohn. Fourth row — Dave Hohn, Willis Carter, Harold Hohn, Clarence Steinbach. Third row — Bill Pasieko, Leo Steinbach, Herman Gafka, Adolf Hohn. Second row — Ruth Hohn, Katie Kotanko, Lily Kotanko, Lydia Hohn, Helen Kotanko, Glenna Gafka, Rosie Pasieko, Jean Hohn, Elsie Hohn, Helen Hohn, Linda Gafka, Eleanor Hohn, Dorothy Gafka, Margaret Hohn. Two boys behind first row — Edmond Hohn and Walter Kotanko. First row — Lillian Steinbach, Lovely Kotanko, Ruby Gafka, Irene Bradshaw, Alice Carter, Elsie Gafka, Alfred Hosking. Teacher — G. N. Hosking. Missing — Katie Pasieko, Justina Chmilar, Mike Chmilar, Edward Miskiwi.

The first teacher who taught in the Brush Hill School was Nick McIntyre. He boarded at the Woods and drove to school with team and buggy. He married one of the Woods daughters.

The next teacher was Miss Maud Carswell from Red Deer.

In 1910, Miss Elizbeth West (Hutchinson) came from Dublin, Ireland. She taught one term and boarded at the Gafka's. Then there was Miss Minnie Burkholder, E. Force — 1917, Mary E. Ryan — 1918. School attendance that year was 28. E. J. Eickmeyer was the school Secretary. Taxes collected for the current year were \$349.00. Arrears \$190.65.

Minnie G. Macdonald 1919-20, school attendance was 38.

Miss Beatrice Jewrs — 1920-21, M. E. Bryenton — 1922, school attendance was 41. School was closed for one week in December, when everything possible was disinfected. Jean Kavanaugh and Lillian Chapman each taught several months. C. I. William — 1923, Bill Crombe — 1924, Marion Wilson — 1925-1927.

Prior to 1925 the school term was from April to July or August. Then the children helped with the harvest. School commenced again in October to December. In 1925 the school term was regulated by law. The term was set from September 1st to June 30th.



Brush Hill School, built in 1928. Photo 1946.

The barn was a necessary building of the rural school. Our barn had four stalls, a hay loft, two windows, mangers and a split door. If more than eight horses were in the barn, they were tied in the gangway. Each family was responsible for providing feed for their own horses. The barn was seldom cleaned. The manure accumulated until old Dobbin's rear almost touched the ceiling and his head was in the manger. Due to the manure freezing, it was difficult to clean the barn. There was a coal shed attached to the barn. In later years the shed was used to house the teacher's car.

Playing in the barn was always a source of amusement for the boys. One day one of the boys was up in the hayloft and he called one of his playmates to look up. As the unsuspecting victim looked up, down came a shower all over his head. This boy reported the incident to the teacher. The girls were ordered out of the room and "court" was held. For punishment the culprit had to apologize and was firmly ordered to use the bathroom thereafter. The culprit stood in front of the boys and was faintly heard saying, "Sorry trouble".

Discipline had to be strict and was enforced by means of the strap, a yardstick, standing in a corner or staying in at recess. Once in a while the punishment didn't fit the crime as in the following incident.

It was the duty of one of the boys to fill a water container on the potbellied stove with snow. There was no drinking water in the school and Andy, being thirsty, took a handful of snow and ate it. One of the children told the teacher. She gave him a board and ordered him to go outside and bring it back heaped with snow. He was made to eat all of it while standing in front of the children. This he did, rather slowly and then she ordered him out for a second helping. He refused. The teacher was going to strap him but he grabbed the strap and hit her several times. Andy took his clothes and lunch pail and ran home. The teacher said she would report him to the trustees but it is doubtful that she did. Nothing more was said about it.

After 23 years the first school had served its purpose. It was too small and outdated. On July 18, 1928, the school district borrowed \$4,500.00 for the purpose of erecting and equipping a tile and brick veneer schoolhouse. Treasurer at that time was George T. Carter.

Charles Gordon had the contract for the new school. George Carter was a bricklayer and helped in building the school. John Steinback and his sons dug the basement and tank toilets using horses and a fresno. For this job they were paid \$125.00.

The new brick school was very modern for its time. The school had a full basement, a furnace, a



Brush Hill School pupils, 1949. Back row (l. to r.) — Paul Werezuk, Mike Moroz, Bill Moroz, Walter Moroz. Third row — Alma Hohn, Anne Zelenko, Sadie Werezuk, Leo Zelenko. Second row — Angeline Aronitz, Bob Kostash, Leonard Severyn, Molleen Barber, William Barber — teacher. Front row — Elsie Lobur, Andy Zelenko, Walter Kostash, Eddie Barber, Lawrence Zelenko, William Werezuk.

storage room for coal and wood and a kitchenette added in later years. There was a toilet in the basement for the boys. During cold or wet days the children often played in the basement. Upstairs were two cloak rooms, a toilet for the girls, an entrance with a cupboard for storing lunch pails. There were single and double desks with inkwells, a teacher's desk and chair, a built-in library which contained many books. The library was also known as the "dungeon" because this is where the teacher usually wielded the strap. A globe hung from the ceiling, a huge Webster's dictionary was on the teacher's desk, the blackboards were across the south and west walls. The east wall consisted of windows over its entire length.

Jacob Gafka owned a well-drilling machine and he and his helper, John Tillapaugh, made the well. The water was unpleasant to the taste. Drinking water was carried from the John Steinbach well.

In 1928 the first teacher who taught in the new school was Miss Russel. She boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Carter.

In 1929 G. N. Hosking taught 39 pupils. For a year the Hoskings' lived on the Scherbarth farm until the teacherage was built in 1930. The new teacherage was a cottage style. It had two bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. After the school was closed, the teacherage was sold to Leo and Mary Jane Steinbach in 1953. It was moved to the Steinbach farm and at the present time is occupied by Clarence Steinbach.

Mr. Hosking enjoyed playing with the children. Almost every day during recess and the noonhour he played games with them. He taught 56 children during one of his school terms.

Mr. Hosking was known for his Christmas concerts. People came from far and near to see them. He was a good singer, actor and taught the children how to sing and act.

If any serious difficulties occurred in the school, Mr. Hosking held "court", as he called it.

Nicknames were commonly used in our school. They originated from both the pupils and the teacher. Boys' nicknames were Beefsteak, Dempsy, Sharkey, Guts, Heavy, Zeb, Scotty and Shorty. Mr. Hosking nicknamed some of the girls, Johnny Pumphandle, Jimmy Whistle-Cricker, Goblestein and Melanke. Some of the ladies will remember Mr. Hosking's "Hello my girl". His pupils were always his kids long after they completed their schooling.

Mr. Hosking and the children planted the spruce trees that are still in the school yard.

During the spring, student teachers from Normal School were sent to rural schools for one week. The children looked forward to the change. Mr. Hosking sneaked difficult problems to the children and they presented them to the new teacher to find out how smart he was. The student teachers were Mr. Hale, Mr. Samoil, Robert Henley, John Berezan, Fred Resor and William Bushko.

In 1939 all of the school children were given free reserved tickets to see King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. For most of the children it was their first trainride and also the first time they were in Edmonton. It was a never-forgotten thrill for the children.

Mrs. Hosking was a very kind woman. Daily during the winter she warmed the children's beverage for the noon lunch and always came to our school parties to play games with the little children.

Across the road from the school flowed the Vermilion River. An island was formed due to the river changing its course. This island was a beautiful playground. During the winter we played hockey, shinny and skated on the river. We also slid down the hill. Bought sleds were rarely used because money was scarce. One of the home-made sleds was extra long; it held six children and five more sat on their laps. When this sled went full speed down the hill the children never reached the bottom due to rocks on the runway. Children flew in all directions. Cardboard and shovels were also used when sliding down the hill. There was many a sore bottom, but we always went back for more.

During summer the children played football, basketball, hardball and softball. The boys swam in the river down by the bridge. The girls' swimming place

was south of the school. One day the boys peeked at the girls. For punishment they had their hands warmed by the strap. No one owned a bathing suit.

Church services were held in the school until the Evangelical and Reformed Church was built in 1915. The Brush Hill Ladies' Aid held their bazaars and chicken suppers in the school. The school was also used for dances, meetings and as a polling station.

School fairs were held in the later summer. In the springtime, seeds were given to the students to take home and plant in garden plots. These plots were inspected and graded by school officials. In the late summer, when the vegetables reached maturity, they were taken to Vegreville to be displayed in competition with other schools. Musical festivals held in May replaced the school fairs.

The children looked forward to four special occasions during the school year. Two of these were the Hallowe'en and Valentine parties. Games, suitable for the occasion, were played and a special lunch was always supplied by the mothers. This was a special treat for the students because everyday lunches were quite simple. The next occasion was Christmas. Everyone looked forward to the concert. For weeks before the big day, the children practised plays, recitations and singing carols. Names were drawn for the exchange of gifts to be put under the beautiful decorated tree. The people of the community filled bags with candy, nuts, apples and oranges. These were distributed after the concert. The round stuffed Santa Claus was played by one of the men of the district who had the job of distributing the bags and gifts.

The end-of-the-year school picnic was also looked forward to with absolute glee by most of the students. It meant freedom for two whole months, a rather precarious freedom because many of the children worked very hard during the summer holidays. Those students who were about to leave the rural school looked upon this with a degree of sadness. It brought to an end those golden years of childhood. Usually this day was celebrated with a wiener roast accompanied by sweets supplied by the mothers.

The Inspector's visit to the school usually came as a surprise once or twice a year. During his visit we were at our best behaviour. We were quiet as mice; no one dared make any noise. His time was spent in testing the children in arithmetic, reading, spelling or composition. When he left, every one breathed a sigh of relief. Inspectors down through the years were Mr. Butchart, H. B. Cartwright, O. Williams, M. E. Lazerte, A. L. Doucette, L. B. Yule and E. White.

Miss Mary Black began her career as a Health Nurse in our area in 1925. She vaccinated and inoculated several generations of children. She had a re-

markable memory for one's name and face. When children had measles, mumps, chicken-pox or scarlet fever, there was a red quarantine sign attached to the house.

This quarantine often lasted from four to six weeks.

One day, Miss Black came to our school and during recess the boys were chasing rabbits on the island. Several of the boys caught and killed one and put it in the trunk of Miss Black's Model A Coupe. Someone blabbed to the teacher and after a good lecture, for punishment, they were not allowed to play on the island for several months.

The older children did the janitor work at the school. During the thirties, wages for fire tender were \$35.00 per year. Daily sweeping and dusting was \$3.00 per month. Pumping toilets — \$2.00 per session. Water carrier — \$2.00 per month. Floor scrubber — \$4.00. Coal hauling — \$1.00 per ton.

William D. Barber was the last teacher in our district. He taught from 1943-1952. He coached the children's ball teams and took them to play against other schools. On two occasions the children were taken to Elk Island Park at the end of the school year. This was quite a thrill for those of us who had never been there before. He coached those of us who had enough talent to enter the annual spring Musical Festival, which was one of the highlights of the year. Mr. and Mrs. Barber always had a gift for Santa Claus at the Christmas concert. During the last five years of his tenure he taught grade nine.

The school was closed in 1952. The attendance at that time was 17. For several months the children were bussed to Vegreville School by Robert Robert and then by Cecil Bradshaw. Mr. Bradshaw is still the bus driver for this district.

In 1954 the school was bought by the community to be used as a Community Centre. As of this date it is still owned by the Brush Hill Community.

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History of the Brush Hill School

Away back when in 1905,

The Brush Hillers found it hard to survive,
They all got together and had a long debate,
They talked and they argued till rather quite late.

Some one said, "We are in a terrible situation,
What we need for our kids is a good education."
The men got together, they bought lumber and a tool,
They made a huge box; some one called this thing
"school".

The parents told the kids, "You must go to school,
If you don't, you will be dumber than a mule".
The poor little kids turned rather pale.
To go there every day would be worse than in jail.

The mothers packed a dinner pail, such lunch I never saw,

The Germans had sauerkraut, the Ukraininas,
kobasa.

The teacher was English, not one did any learnin',
The pupils spoke only Ukrainian and German.

The kids were so sad, and soon saw their plight,
Germans learned to say "dobra", the Ukrainians,
"gezundheit".

They tried and they tried to learn each other's lingo,
Ere long, we were the first school in Canada to be
trilingual.

Our little white schoolhouse became run down and old,

We needed a new one, it was drafty and cold,
It smelled of dampness and corrosion,
And there was that problem — population explosion.

We built a new school in 1928,
It was modern and cosy, right up-to-date,
It was made of red brick, it had a flue,
It had a furnace and toilets in it too.

In winter there was snow and such sleet,
Poor Dobbin suffered with terrible cold feet,
To keep our old nags cozy and warm,
We had to erect that little red barn.

Miss Black the health nurse, came to our school, To
Check us for mumps and chicken-pox too,
We washed once a year, so she could inspect,
Our eyes, our ears and our nice clean neck.

If you are interested in knowing who attended our
school,

Just listen to this, I will name you a few.

There was Albrought, Bryenton, Bennet and Ayers,
These were so clever, they turned out to be Mayors.

There was Blackwell and Jacula, Merkel and
Kotanko,

Gafka and Hohn, Aronitz and Zelenko,
There was Bronkin and Bushko, Wagner and Kitz,
Chmilar and Bradshaw, Werezuk and Yakimetz.

There was Eickmeyer, Tippe, Dobko and Carter,
Such smart kids, there weren't any smarter.
There was Borgens and Hughes, Lobur and Flewell,
Those brilliant kids were bright as a jewel.

There was Gorden and Volk, Melnechuk and Mohr,
None of these kids found school a bore.

There were Scherbarths and Severyn, Steinbach and
Sayko,

Rogers and Moroz, Dutchak and Pasheko.

To pronounce our names, one need not be a pro-
fessor,

Remember those kids, their name, Querengesser?
I'm sorry, and apologize in case I have missed you,
Oh yes, there is one more, and that is Miskiw.

There were times when us kids just had a ball.
 We didn't get any work done, no, none at all.
 We liked to misbehave and get into a brawl.
 When teacher did strap us, oh, how we did howl.

One day when everything was all upset
 In walked the inspector, Mr. Doucette.
 Another time when we did fool,
 A knock on the door, 'twas Inspector Yule.

Our teachers were many, I'd like to mention a few,
 Bryenton, Ryan, McDonald and McIntyre too.
 We wondered where they did find this lot,
 It did not take long, our accent was Scot.

There was Williams and Wilson, Force and Russel,
 Jewers and Crombe, Berezan and Carswell,
 There was Doc. Hosking, let's give them three
 cheers,

He put up with us kids for fourteen long years.

The last teacher who taught us was William D. Barber,

The school closed down in 52, we could go no
 farther,

Along came a bus driver and drove us to school,
 We behaved very nicely, no one did fool.

Oh sure! there were times we were full of tricks,
 Those kids in town called us country hicks,
 They ruffed us up and were rather cruel,
 So we taught them the golden rule.

As we come to the end of this perfect day,
 These wonderful memories are here to stay
 Cherish them like a precious jewel,
 This is the history of the Brush Hill School.

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Park Grove School District No. 1270 **Courtesy of Ralph Gorrie**

The Park Grove School District No. 1270 was established April 14, 1905, comprising the following lands: Section 6, 7, 18 and 19 in Township 53, Range 14; Section 1-4, 9-16 and 21-24 in Township 53, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian. Senior trustee at that time was A. E. Jennings of Vegreville, Alberta.

Approval was given October 2, 1905, to borrow the sum of One thousand dollars for the purpose of building and furnishing a new school house. Treasurer at that time was James A. Cameron of Vegreville, Alberta.

On July 4, 1930, thirty-eight hundred dollars was borrowed for the purpose of improving and enlarging the school house, putting in a cement basement and chemical toilets, plastering interior and stuccoing the outside walls. Treasurer at that time was A. E. Jennings of Vegreville, Alberta.

Effective December 31, 1930, the boundaries of



Park Grove School #1270 — view from west, 1924. Little porch below the centre window was the entrance to the basement. Little box-like structure was the coal and wood chute. Big ante-room was for coats and rubbers before entering the classroom. There was a big shelf for lunch buckets too.



The east half of the classroom of pupils in Park Grove School #1270 in June, 1924. Starting at left: front row — Clayton Fuller, Lorne G. Wood, Edward Zalizniak, Clarence Sanford and Harold Fuller. Further back: Edith Meyer, Grace Meyer and Iva Meyer. Starting with boy at back of class: Harvey Sanford, May Kitto, Roy Fuller and Alma Zalizniak (laughing).



West half of the classroom of pupils in Park Grove School #1270 in June, 1924. (L. to r.) — Walter Meyer, Jennie Salamandick (a little blurred), Helena Triska. Second row — Anne Triska, Lena Triska and Marjorie McCleery. Third row — Nellie Salamandick, Edith Sanford, Dan Triska. Fourth row: Lucille Dake, John Wood and Rosalee Dake (behind Dan's shoulder).

the Park Grove School District were altered by withdrawing the following lands: North half of Section 19 in Township 53, Range 14, West of the Fourth Meridian, and by adding: South half of Section 26 in Township 53, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian, therefore the district shall comprise of the following lands: Sections 6, 7 and 18, the south half of Section 19 in Township 53, Range 14; Sections 1-4, 9-16 and 21-24, the south half of Section 26 in Township 53, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian.

The boundaries for Park Grove School District were altered on August 6, 1936, by adding the following lands: North-west quarter of Section 35 in Township 52, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian.

The Park Grove School District No. 1270 was included in subdivision 1 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19, later known as the County of Minburn No. 27.

Approval was given May 17, 1952, for the sale of site and buildings located on the south-east quarter of Section 14 in Township 53, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian.

December 8, 1954, the following lands were transferred from Kolomea School District to Park Grove School District: Section 5-8, and 17-20 in Township 53, Range 15, West of the Fourth Meridian.

Park Grove Teachers

Miss Ingalls	1907
Miss Verna Perry (Mrs. Scholl)	1911
Miss Nellie Atteburg	
Miss Thom (Mrs. Milo Ferguson)	1918-1919
Miss Anna Bowe (Mrs. Daniel O'Leary)	
(Dr. Couillard's Aunt)	
Miss Eva Hynes (Mrs. George Cole)	
Miss Muriel Patterson	1923
Mr. Malcolm McLeod	
Miss Bertha Jennings (Mrs. Harold Kennedy)	
Miss Mitchell	
Miss Genevieve Thomas (Mrs. Gene Aitkins)	
Miss Mary Bowman (Mrs. George Hoke)	
Miss Marie Thompson (Mrs. Sherm Davis)	
Miss Ethel Denmark (Mrs. Cook)	
Miss Verna Armstrong	
(Mrs. Wm. Nicholson)	1932-1937
Miss Verla Thompson (Mrs. Roy Fuller)	1937-1938
Miss Margaret Dinwoodie (Mrs. Beacom)	
Miss Ruth Clements	
Miss Lois Ziegler (Mrs. R. Gregory)	
Supervisor	1944-1945
Miss Lillian Gordey (Mrs. Kelman)	1945-1947
Mrs. Ann Smook	1947-1948
Miss Jean Austin (Mrs. Nick Kuzyk)	1948-1949



Miss R. Maxwell, teacher at Park Grove School # 1270, 1924.

Miss Rose Marie Quilichini	1949-1950
Mr. Wm. Marchack	1950-1951.

Leachville School District No. 1276

— April 26, 1905 the Leachville School No. 1276 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 5-8 and the west halves of Section 4 and 9 in Township 52, Range 15; Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 in Township 52, Range 16; Sections 19, 20, 29-32 in Township 51, Range 15; Sections 23-26, 35 and 36 in Township 51, Range 16; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was T. J. Cunningham, of Vegreville, Alberta.

— July 31, 1905 the sum of one thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house.

— March 3, 1926 the following lands were withdrawn: North-west quarter of Section 9, in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— July 30, 1929 the following lands were withdrawn: Sections 19, 20, south half and north-east quarter of Section 29, and the south half of Section 30, in Township 51, Range 15; Section 24, north-east



Leachville School, 1920. Teacher — Mary Dobson. Back row (l. to r.) — Mike Tymchuk, Peter Kowalchuk, Russel Gorsline, Donald Hulett, Marjorie Hulett, Pearl and Katherine Zaseybida, Marvel Cole. Second row (kneeling l. to r.) — Andrew Goshko, Frances Kowalchuk, Joe Kowalchuk, Pearl and Mary Dobranski, Robert Langpap, Peter Goshko, Wallace (Scotty) Keiffer. Front row (kneeling l. to r.) — Charlie and Ed. Langpap, Olga Zaseybida, Sophie Goshko, Jean Zuk, Mike Kowalchuk, Peter Korpan, Anton Zuk.



Leachville school children, about 1942. Larry Cole at back left, Russell Kuly standing in front.



Leachville School, 1937-38. Back row (l. to r.): Teacher Velma Caddey, Annie Kuly, Annie Kostiuk, Betty Cole, Fran Leach, Bill Tymchuk, Mary Hewko, Mary Tropak. Middle row (l. to r.): Neil Cassidy, Lloyd Langpap, Paul Tropak, Sherry Leach, Annie Kuly, Orest Tropak, unknown, unknown, Olga Farion. Front row (l. to r.): Walter Hewko, Russell Kuly, Powley, unknown, unknown, Olga Tropak, others unknown.

quarter of Section 23, and the south half of Section 25, in Township 51, Range 16; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— May 7, 1936 the following lands were added: South-east quarter of Section 13, in Township 52, Range 16; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— November 1, 1937 the Leachville School District No. 1276 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.

— October 26, 1955 sale of site and buildings of the Leachville School District No. 1276 was approved.

— September 15, 1964, the Leachville School District No. 1276 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below by Frances (Leach) Cox)

Leachville School was established around 1905 by Ezra Leach, a “stone’s throw” from his home nine and a half miles south-west of Vegreville. Like all others at that time, it was a one-classroom building with a small “cloak” room entrance, where pupils left their coats and muddy footwear. The classroom alone was heated by a pot-bellied stove for which the children took turns bringing in coal and wood. At the front of the room, on a raised platform, sat the teacher’s desk. At one time church services were held there on Sundays.

Most of the children that lived any distance away either rode horseback or drove a buggy or cutter. The horses at first were housed in Leach’s barn; then a few years later a barn was built several yards from the school.

Two things the children dreaded, or thought they did, were the coming of the school inspector and the Public Health nurse. In those days health clinics were non-existent, so, periodically, Miss Black would arrive with her big black bag and examine, test, and inoculate us all. Nevertheless, we loved dear Miss Black and all felt she was just part of our own family. Indeed, she no doubt felt the same way because when we met her on the street she had a friendly smile and pat and called us by our first names.

In 1933 the first school building burnt down (destroying all the old records) and a new one was built. It was a bit more modern, having the furnace downstairs and a big hot-air register in the middle of the floor. Classes from Grades one to eight were taught and usually twenty to thirty pupils attended.

The highlights of the year were the Christmas concert and end-of-year picnic. As soon as Halloween was over we began memorizing poems, Christmas songs and practising drills and plays. We trimmed the real Christmas tree with handmade decorations and clipped real candles onto the branches. One year when John Leach was Santa Claus, his

beard and clothes caught fire. There were anxious moments for awhile but soon the flames were extinguished and without too dire results.

Some of the teachers that taught there were: Miss Grey, Miss Crocker, Miss Brown, Tressie Bremner, John Leach, Lena Parney, Miss Marshall, Eva Cole, Heathy Stewart, Helen Jennings, Mrs. Harkness, Miss Scott, Flora McDonald, Jack Tymchuk, Ann Wakaruk, Midge Dinwoodie, Velma Caddey, Gertrude Holden and Miss Campbell.

Warwick School District No. 1436

- November 25, 1905 the Brookside School District No. 1436 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 29, 30, 31, 32 and the north half of Section 20 in Township 53, Range 14; Sections 25, 26, 35 and 36, in Township 53, Range 15; Sections 5-8, in Township 54, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- Senior Trustee at the time was Charles Collett, of Warwick, Alberta.
- February 19, 1906 the sum of one thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house and fencing the site.
- Treasurer at the time was Charles Collett, of Warwick, Alberta.
- March 18, 1924 the following lands were added: South-east quarter of Section 18 in Township 54, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- August 26, 1929 the sum of eleven thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting and equipping a two-roomed school.
- Treasurer at the time was R. L. Dunn, of Warwick, Alberta.
- November 22, 1930 the following lands were withdrawn: South half of Section 26, in Township 53, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian; Also the following lands were added: North half of Section 19, in Township 53, Range 14; South-east quarter of Section 17, in Township 54, Range 14; South east quarter of Section 13, in Township 54, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- November 1, 1937 the Brookside School District No. 1436 was included in Subdivision No. 1 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- June 12, 1939 the name of the Brookside School District was changed to the Warwick School District No. 1436.
- October 9, 1951 the sale of site and teacherage of the Warwick School District No. 1436 was approved.
- May 16, 1952 sale of site and buildings of the Warwick School District No. 1436 was approved.

- December 8, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Warwick School District No. 1436 to the Hairy Hill School District: South-east quarters of Sections 17 and 18 in Township 54, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- September 15, 1964 the Warwick School District No. 1436 was incorporated into the county of Minburn No. 27.

(Below by Loyal Tillapaugh)

Brookside School District was formed November 25, 1905. Brookside School was built in 1906 by Mr. Davis. It was located on the homestead of John Tillapaugh (NE 36-53-15 W4) who donated the land for the school.

The first teacher was Mr. Rodrick who had only one arm. Miss Meical, also one of the early teachers, taught at Brookside for ten or eleven years.

On the first School Board were Mr. Dunn, Mr. Gray and John Tillapaugh.

Some of the early settlers were the Tillapaughs, Turners, Dunns, Grays, Emerys, Burkholders and Dekkers.

A new school was built in 1937, located on a new site at Warwick. The name of the school was changed from Brookside to Warwick. The old school was sold to become a store at Norma. This building is still standing today.

Warwick School closed in 1951 and the children were taken to Vegreville by school bus. The first bus driver was Algje Lank.

Vegreville School District No. 1480

April 12, 1906 the New Vegreville School District No. 1480 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 7, 8, 17-20, in Township 52, Range 14; Sections 13 and 24, and the east halves of Sections 14 and 23 in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.



First Public School in New Vegreville, 1906 — a lean-to type wooden structure, one room; teacher Miss Ada Wright. Photo made by Ada's brother who was a professional photographer in New Vegreville.



School Days at Old Vegreville country school. Teacher, Miss Brinton, around 1940-41.

August 28, 1906 the sum of fifteen thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing a school site and erecting and furnishing a brick veneer school building.

April 18, 1912 the sum of eighteen thousand dollars was borrowed on the security of the district for the purpose of erecting and furnishing an addition to the present school building.



Miss Poole, Mr. Clark and Miss Ada Wright, first teachers in New High School, 1922.



Senior public school classroom in the new 4-room school building in New Vegreville, 1906-07. Teacher Miss Ada Wright on the upper left; teacher immediately on her right not identified. School Principal standing on upper right not identified. Photographer Mr. Wright, Ada Wright's brother.



Miss Ann Whittacker, High School teacher for many years. About 1930.

April 4, 1916 the following lands were added: Section 16, 21, 28-33 and the west halves of Sections 15, 22, 27 and 34, in Township 52, Range 14; Sections 25 and 36, and the east halves of Sections 26 and 35, in Township 52, Range 15; all West of the Fourth Meridian.

April 6, 1916 the sum of the two thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of installing sewer and water systems, closets, urinals and other necessary appurtenances connected therewith.

Treasurer at the time was N. McIntyre, of Vegreville, Alberta.

October 2, 1919 the sum of ten thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting, furnishing, fitting and equipping two two-room frame buildings for public schools.

Treasurer at the time was N. McIntyre of Vegreville, Alberta.

May 3, 1921 the sum of twenty-eight thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of acquiring a site, constructing, furnishing and equipping a solid brick four-roomed high school building, complete with basement, lavatories, technical and domestic science class rooms, laboratory and steam heating plant.

August 11, 1921 the sum of five thousand dollars was borrowed on the security of the district for the purpose of acquiring a site, constructing, furnishing and equipping a solid brick four-roomed high school

building, complete with basement, lavatories, technical and domestic science class rooms, laboratory and steam heating plant.

June 24, 1926 the sum of seven thousand dollars was borrowed on the security of the district for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping a two-room frame school building, complete with basement, lavatories and hot air heating plant.

June 4, 1932 the sum of four thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of partial cement re-flooring in basement; repairs to foundation and basement brickwork; re-flooring hallways and four class rooms; repairing stairways; re-plastering where required; complete painting of interior wood work; kalsomining all rooms and hallways, roof and other exterior repairs.

May 19, 1933 the following lands were withdrawn: North half of Section 33, in Township 52, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

September 21, 1944 the following lands were added: Section 12, in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian. Joined school division in 1950.



Midge Dinwoodie and class, 1940's.



First half of Public School, 1911.



First High School Group in the new Vegreville High School, 1921. Known faces are Jerry Baldwin, Marian Clements, Bess Shaw, Bunny Shaw, Miss Ada Wright, Ted Horton, Mr. Clarke, Helen Shaw, Litster, Miss Poole, Stella Tierney, Pearl Richardson, Anita Gordon, Hazel Coombs, Lorraine Clements, Lemmy Cole, Kenneth Cole, Sarah Shaw, Marvel Cole, Ruth Hulett, Mae Stevens, Flossie Stewart, Beulah Richardson, Jean Morrison, Ivan Mitchell, Dorothy Pugh, Sam McKee, Wally Kennedy.

July 23, 1956 the name of the New Vegreville School District No. 1480 was changed to the Vegreville School District No. 1480.

March 16, 1959 the sale of the site of the Vegreville School District No. 1480 was approved.

September 15, 1964 the Vegreville School District No. 1480 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

November 15, 1978 the following lands were added: West half of Section 23, in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

Vegreville Composite High School

The Vegreville Composite High School opened in September, 1966, being built under the federal-provincial technical schools arrangement. The student enrollment approximates four hundred, the majority coming from the County of Minburn with some from the Counties of Lamont, Two Hills, and Beaver. The local governmental authority, called the School Committee, consists in 1979 of:

W. Ursulak, Chairman	H. Huculak, Lavoy (Reeve)
W. Gnyra, Innisfree	R. Petruk, Vegreville
J. Roland, Minburn	C. Gamble, Mannville
A. Dowhey, Lavoy	A. Fedoruk, Vegreville

R. Stone, Innisfree

G. Miller, Vegreville

M. Kozma, Innisfree

S. Nickerson, Mannville. Superintendent is Ralph Gorrie

Supervisor of Instruction is Orest Olineck.

This school offers three distinct programs: academic, business education, and the industrial education. Gordon Strong was instrumental in setting up the school and was first principal. H. Chomik was principal from 1968 to 1978; present principal is E. Katerenchuk. Some long-term members still active are:

A. Jasinski, Vice-principal

Teachers: Eli and Mary Serediak

P. Kulba

B. Tierney

E. Sorochan

J. Radesh

J. Kolesar

A. Lynkowski

H. Babchuk

J. Sprigings

O. Lazarovich

N. Zakordonski

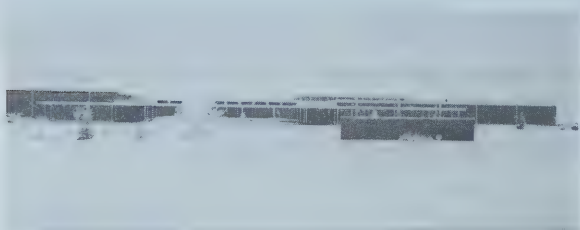
Business Director Lorna (Cole) Hoggins

Custodian Jim Munro.

The school colors are blue and white. The school Motto — Creseat Scientia — "Let Knowledge Grow."



Mr. H. Chomik takes over Principalship from Mr. C. G. Strong, Nov., 1967.



Vegreville Composite High School, opened in 1966, is located on western outskirts of Vegreville (on land formerly owned by Bill Lemiski).



An Annual VCHS Project "Reach for the Top" contestants for 1977/78. (l. to r.) — Tom Johnston, Val Toronchuk, Cathy Lundberg, Delia Kuzz, Diane Gafka. Photo courtesy Vegreville Observer.

Kolomea S.D. #1507

by M. H. Tomyň

Kolomea S.D. #1507 was organized on June 8, 1906. The school was built and officially opened in 1907. P. Svarich was the organizer of the school district. He built the school and was the first Secretary-Treasurer. He organized about a dozen school districts and acted as Secretary-Treasurer of most of them in their initial stage. (Between Vegreville and Two Hills, Maxim Tomyň was active in similar work; he was the Secretary-Treasurer of eight school districts and Secretary-Treasurer of the M.D. of Sobor for thirty years.)

The school was named "Kolomea" by Peter Svarich because many of the early settlers of the district came from a place in the Ukraine by the same name.

Most of the teachers who taught in Kolomea School are as follows: Miss Jackson 1907-08, Mr. McLaughlin 1908-09, Mr. Wawryk about 1909, Zigmund Bychynsky 1909, Mr. Bozyk, John Genik 1913, Mr. McCorrie, Warren Dykeman, Reg Royston, John Ruryk, John Kostash, Harry Kostash 1917-18, John Woywitka 1921-22, Mr. Hryhorowich, N. Romaniuk, H. Babiý — early 1930's, Ann Oreschak (Kostash) 1937-38, M. Lemiski 1930-1940, M. Tomyň 1938-1948, Josie Reidlinger 1941-48, L. Michaluk 1940-41, M.J. Fedoruk 1948-49, Wm. Gegolick 1949-51.

Miss Jackson was the first teacher in Kolomea School. She came from Toronto in 1907. She and her sister lived upstairs (attic) over the classroom.

Mr. McLaughlin practiced law in Edmonton for some time.

Zigmund Bychynsky was a Presbyterian minister, editor, author and organizer. As Mrs. Bychynsky's piano was being moved, the wagon got stuck in a slough by William Salamandick's place. In winter the Bychynsky's lived with Fred Kostash where Zigmund taught the Kostash boys and the neighbors' children.

In the early days of the province, 1910-15, the Ukrainian teachers whose English was not the best and who did not have a valid Alberta Teaching Certificate (they taught on a permit), were frowned upon by those who supposedly "knew better." Robert Fletcher, Supervisor of Foreign Schools in Wostok, had this to say about what he felt were recalcitrant school boards: "The next school I visited was Kolomea which is also close to Mundare. I made the same request (that the teacher, be removed), and gave the same warning (that he, Fletcher, would be appointed official trustee of the school) to this board, but they refused to make a change of teachers. I reported their refusal to the department and was



First Kolomea School built in 1907. M. McCorry — teacher. Back row (standing l. to r.) — Nick Bohaychuk, Tillie Keat, John Porayko, Kate Semenchuk, John Hrynyk, Irene Bohaychuk, Tony Bogdanski, Annie Michalko, Paul Franchuk, Helen Spak, Alex Wynnichuk, Sophie Keat, Peter Hrynyk, Hilda Porayko, Mike Tanasichuk, Kate Wynnichuk, Nick Pruss, Helen Axenti, unknown, Lena Wynnichuk, teacher Mr. McCorry (of Vancouver), Irene Wynnichuk. Second row (l. to r.) — Pete Bohaychuk, Peter Spak, Bill Tanasichuk, Mike Wynnichuk, Irwin Ashmore, Metro Jeremy, John Jeremy, unknown, Marshall Hrynyk. Third row (l. to r.) — Erica Ashmore, Irene Semenchuk, unknown, Mary Bohaychuk, Helen Bohaychuk, Mary Michalko, Kate Bohaychuk, Cassie Michalko, Olga Wynnichuk, Mary Wynnichuk.



Kolomea School — class, teacher, Board of Trustees and Secretary-Treasurer. Standing at right (trustees) — Ivan Svarich. Mike Semenchuk, Stefan Porayko. Standing at left — (Secretary-treasurer) Peter Svarich, (teacher) Mr. McLaughlin. About 1909.



Kolomea School — class — teacher — Board of Trustees, and Secretary-Treasurer. Seated in front (l. to r.) — Nick Semenchuk, Elias Kostash, Harry Kostash. Standing at back (l. to r.) — trustees Ivan Svarich, Mike Semenchuk, Stefan Porayko. Standing at left — (Secretary-treasurer) Peter Svarich. About 1909.



Kolomea School, 1941.



M. H. Tomyń (on right) — holding Lord Strathcona Shield won by teacher William Tomyń in 1928. William Hnydyk (on left).

promptly appointed official trustee of the district. I placed a qualified teacher in charge of the school immediately. The board of trustees visited the department to protest my conduct, but my action was sustained." Those were difficult times but cool heads prevailed.

Peter Svarich and Maxim Tomyń gave invaluable help and guidance during those trying times.

Such actions as the above eliminated most of the early Ukrainian teachers in the province. No more teaching permits were issued by the department after 1913. The English School for Foreigners at Vegreville helped the students to upgrade their High school education. Later about 1917, after receiving higher education and Normal School training, the Ukrainian teachers started teaching in the country schools in the province, primarily in districts where Ukrainians predominated.

One teacher was suspended for some type of assault.

Reg Royston was considered by many of his

pupils to be a very good teacher. Periodically he sent J. Spak to Mundare for mail and groceries.

N. Romaniuk married Sophie Hewko, daughter of blacksmith Hewko of Mundare. He used to borrow the Bogdanský violin to entertain the children in school.

Teachers moved around a lot in the early days. In Kolomea School there were twelve teachers in the period 1907-1925. After this period the tenure of teachers was more stable.

There were two Kolomea teachers who taught the longest: M. Lemiski for ten years and M. H. Tomyń for ten years; both taught in the administrative capacity.

In the early days it was quite common for a teacher to receive an annual salary of from \$600 to \$840. The law stated that \$840 had to be paid annually, but the board could make a deduction for rent and fuel. When the Vegreville School Division #19, in 1938, took the rural schools "under its wing," salaries for the teachers began to increase, and the raise has been apparent year after year, more or less commensurate with the cost of living.

At the beginning, schools operated from May or June to September. About 1920 the school year was altered and lengthened, corresponding closely to our present one.

The school building had one room, three windows on each side, a porch, a platform in front of the classroom, and shelves and benches for lunches and hooks for clothes in the cloakroom. A steep stairway connected the two floors. The school was a white frame building with green trim. It faced north towards the road allowance.

The classroom had a big pot-bellied stove with a metal shield or jacket around it to protect the children from burns and to provide convection currents for better heat distribution. In winter, fire had to be made early in the morning; even so, sometimes the children "hugged" the heater till mid-morning. Often the area around the heater was too hot while the far side of the classroom was too cold. It was not uncommon for children to work with their coats on till noon. During the night, ink would freeze in the ink wells, and during the morning, lunches would freeze in the cloakroom. The classroom equipment and supplies included a globe, a water pail and dipper (later a water crock fountain and cups were considered more hygienic), maps in a box above the blackboard, flag, pendulum wall-clock, picture of the King, yardsticks (used for various purposes), blackboard, chalk, chalk liner, blackboard brushes, teacher's desk, some library books, huge Webster dictionary, pencil sharpener, double desks with inkwells (later, single desks, either anchored to the floor or bolted onto skids), coal



(l. to r.) — Mary Spak, Nataika Porayko, and Nettie Hrynyk holding Lord Strathcona Shield won by their teacher, M. H. Tomyn, 1943.



Small Kolomea school pupils. Boy in front middle is Michael G. Tomyn, presently Provincial Court Judge. 1943.

and wood pail and boxes, broom and dustpan. (The regulation strap was kept in the desk). Most of the items were purchased at the beginning of school, not because somebody in the district so decreed, but because the department specified these as essentials, and provided a grant for purchasing them.

The schoolyard was approximately two acres in area. There was a water pump, barn, ball backstop, two privies (outhouses) and later the teacherage.

S. J. Porayko, once chairman and later Secretary-Treasurer of the school, was instrumental in getting a new school. The two-room school, built in 1929, had a full basement for playing areas, furnace room, coal bin and storage room. The front had a side entrance and two big cloakrooms. Grades taught most of the time were — grades one to five in the junior room, and six to ten in the senior room.

The four-room teacherage was used by two teachers, unless they chose to live elsewhere, as Mrs. J. Reidlinger did from 1941-48. Each teacher and his family occupied two rooms. One room served as



Kolomea School — skating rink; (note caboose), 1947.



Kolomea School — trip to Long Lake on last day of school, about 1946.

kitchen, and dining and living area, and one was the bedroom. The cellar in each half-section provided cold storage since electricity and refrigeration were conveniences enjoyed only by the urban residents. The teacherage was rather cold until it was insulated in the early 1940's. It did have storm windows. Earth banked up against the foundation kept out some of the cold.

The two outhouses, one for the boys and one for the girls, were located at a respectable distance from the school; they were later concealed by a shelter-belt of maples, poplars, caraganas, and evergreens. The trees were planted under the supervision of the teacher, M. Lemiski, in the early 1930's.

The skating rink, erected in the early 1940's, provided much fun and exercise during the winter months. Tubs, boilers, and pails were used to haul the well water to flood the rink. The rink was enclosed with boards three feet high. It was the only rink of its kind for miles around.

About the same time, the school purchased a hand-operated battery — powered silent movie projector which provided visual education. (Something out of this world!) The conversation and commentary were in printed form on the screen. Again this was a "first" for the school of its type and size in the Vegreville Inspectorate.

Although about five grades were taught in each room, somehow the teachers and pupils found time to take part in the following: Christmas Concert, School Festival, Track Meet, and Softball Tournaments.

The Christmas concert program consisted of songs, carols, plays, recitations, drills and pantomimes. The school festival featured choral speech, drama, singing, and recitations. The track meet events were dashes; running high jump; running broad jump; standing broad jump; running, hop, step and jump; and softball.

Years back, schools were encouraged to grow gardens. This was supposed to be good training for boys and girls. But one problem persisted — the garden became very weedy during the summer holidays, and sometimes somebody's cow helped herself.

School was governed by a strict code. Speaking Ukrainian in early schools was strictly taboo. Some teachers even strapped children for talking in Ukrainian; or some would have them write "lines" or stay in during intermissions. Talking in class, turning around, and not doing homework were considered serious school-rule infractions, and the offenders were summarily punished. Note the reverse: today Ukrainian is taught from kindergarten to University.

Cocoa made in a big boiler over the kitchen range in the basement provided a hot drink, especially in wintertime.

The doctor and the health nurse would visit the school periodically to give the "needle" and check up on health.

In summer the children came to school on foot or by horse and buggy; in winter most travelled by horse and cutter. Sometimes the cutter was enclosed to make a caboose which afforded protection from the elements.

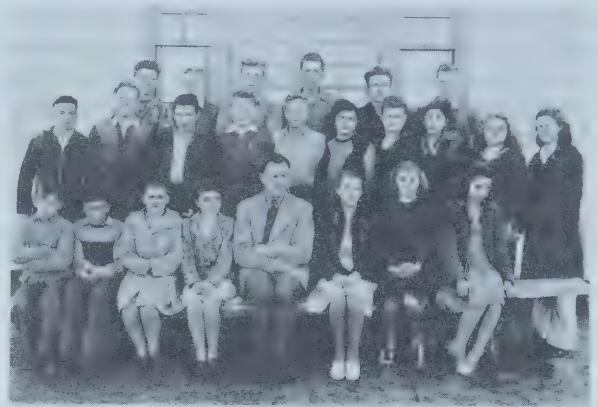
Since the roads were blocked by snow in winter, the teacher would walk to Royal Park for mail and groceries. Often kind neighbors took him to town by sleigh. There were no gravelled nor high-grade roads then.

A rare but happy coincidence occurred in the experience of the teacher, M. Tomyň. As a young lad attending Plain Lake School, he was asked by his teacher, William Tomyň, to hold the Lord Strathcona Shield while posing for the picture to display the award. The shield was awarded to the teacher for having a well-organized and efficient school. Fifteen years later, in 1943, M. Tomyň, who by then was principal of Kolomea School, was awarded the same shield for similar achievement.

In 1939 Helen Ferguson, a Kolomea School student, was awarded the Governor-General Medal for



F. Kostash — moving a chicken-house, 1920's.



Kolomea school pupils — senior room — 1947. Front row (l. to r.) — Ernest Stanley Porayko, Lawrence Miskew, Olga Mae Semenchuk, Ann Semenchuk, M. Tomyň — Principal, Nancy Ishkiw, Elizabeth Spak, Virginia Yaremie. Middle row (l. to r.) — George Hrynyk, Bill Procyk, Walter Skrypitski, Allison Lemiski, Boris Fodchuk (Governor-General Medal recipient), Margaret Spak, Rose Semenchuk, Steffie Kassian, Marshalline Yaremie, Mary Hrynyk. Back row (l. to r.) — Alvin Warawa, Walter Wynnichuk, Mike Wicentovich, Tom Kassian, Steve Hrynyk, Ronald Porayko. Absent — Elsie Wynnichuk.

achieving the highest scholastic standing on the grade nine departmental examinations in the Vegreville Inspectorate. Boris Fodchuk achieved similar distinction in 1947. He is presently a lawyer in Vancouver.

The trip to Elk Island Park on the last day of school for a school picnic was always a big treat. Transportation was provided by a big farm truck.

Many ex-Kolomea students have gone on to notable heights: the six Kostash sons, all with degrees and in top professions; W. G. Porayko, teacher; Walter Salamandick, engineer; Boris Fodchuk, lawyer; Walter Wynnichuk, teacher; George Spak, teacher; Mary Spak, teacher; Lydia Porayko, teacher; Bill Procyk, R.C.M.P.; Natalka Salamandick, teacher; Annabelle Ashmore, teacher; Peter Semenchuk, teacher; and Elizabeth Bednarski, teacher. (The writer apologizes for any omissions).

In 1951 and 1952 most of the country schools

were closed and children were vanned into town schools, which of necessity, grew in size and sophistication. A similar fate befell Kolomea School since the enrolment went down to approximately 35. One-half of the pupils were bussed to Vegreville and the other half to Mundare.

The Kolomea School building was sold to the Lavoy Ukrainian Catholic Parish and, after extensive alterations, now serves as a church. The four-room teacherage, built in the late 1920's, is presently a residence close to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vegreville (5646-50 St.)

A note about the early Kolomea district: P. Svarich had the first Kolomea post office, situated on SE 18-53-15-W4. Shortly after, Fred Kostash took over the post office and operated it from his home on NE 18-53-15-W4. Most of the time Kostash brought the mail by horseback, from Beaver Lake.

The Kostash family made history in educational circles when their six sons had completed their University training (some with two degrees) by the 1930's. This was an enviable Alberta record at the time and, no doubt, a Canadian record. One must realize that pioneer times were difficult in more ways than one.

The first chairman of the school was Fred Kostash and the first Secretary-Treasurer was P. Svarich. When the school was closed in the early 1950's, the sub-divisional trustee for the school district was S. J. Porayko.

In the early 1900's, the residents of Kolomea S.D. were: D. Hrynyk, A. Bohaychuk, M. Bohaychuk, T. Bohaychuk, S.J. Porayko, A. Spak, A. Yaremie, H. Tanasichuk, S. Porayko, F. Kostash, A. Miskew, D. Fodchuk, K. T. Ferguson, N. Salamandick, F. Wynnichuk, John Moroziuk, A. Wynnichuk, D. Michaliuk, T. A. Ashmore, W. Bednarski, D. Semenchuk, S. Gregory, J. Svarich, A. Svarich, P. Svarich, M. Topilko, P. Hordie, P. Lemiski, A. Woloshyn, Bogdansk, N. Semenchuk, S. Warawa, S. Obal, J. Skrypitski, A. Franchuk, O. Topilko, J. Turchin.

By the 1940's, some changes in farm ownership had occurred but many of the residents were the same. Following is the list: H. Hrynyk, B. Bohaychuk, M. Bohaychuk, S. J. Porayko, S. Gregory, E. Spak, A. Yaremie, J. Moroziuk, E. Kostash, M. Moroziuk, D. Fodchuk, K. T. Ferguson, N. Salamandick, S. Wynnichuk, D. Semenchuk, D. Michaliuk, F. Shankowski, T.A. Ashmore, W. Bednarski, N. Semenchuk, M. Topilko, P. Hordie, Mrs. M. Lemiski, A. Woloshyn, W. Ishkiw, B. Semenchuk, S. Warawa, N. Pruss, J. Skrypitski, A. Franchuk, W. Kolodkewych, J. F. Bohaychuk, A. Miskew, J. A. Bilyk, C. Turchin, G. Wicentovich. (See map page 1017.)

(For some of the above information on Kolomea history, the writer is indebted to the Vegreville Observer, Elias Kostash and William Kostash).

New School Opened at Kolomea Monday Vegreville Observer — Oct. 23, 1929

That progress will be more rapid and study will be easier for the pupils of Kolomea school in their new school house was pointed out on Monday night by O. Williams, school inspector, during the formal opening of the school. No longer will the senior grades take up the whole time of the teacher to the detriment of the younger pupils, but in the new school there will be a teacher for both classes in separate, well lighted, clean and airy rooms.

High school education up as high as grade ten can be offered in the school now and this obviates the necessity of sending pupils to Vegreville and Edmonton to get all their high school education.

Not only will the so-called book learning be absorbed in the new school, but the new clean and healthful surroundings will be an example to them of good sanitation and ventilation.

According to a report issued from the sanitarium in Calgary, there are more cases of tuberculosis from the north central part of the province east of Edmonton than there are from the rest of the province. This can only be combatted by teaching the children the advantages of ventilation and there is no better way to do so than to place them in clean surroundings in the school, said Mr. Williams in conclusion.

Nowhere else in the province, said Jas. McCrea, principal of the Vegreville public school, will be found such modern up-to-date two-room rural schools as in the Lamont and Vegreville inspectorates. But Kolomea is to be more congratulated for the fine spirit shown by the pupils than for the new school, though of course it, too, is very satisfactory. Pupils from the Kolomea district who have come to Vegreville have always shown a very high type of scholarship and have as a general rule, made good.

The first chairman of the school district, Mr. Fred Kostash, spoke a few words to the members of the audience who did not speak English. He was followed by his son Harry Kostash, B. A., who was one of the first pupils to attend the Kolomea school 22 years ago. Mr. Kostash, Jr. has since then gone through high school and university and now holds his Bachelor of Arts degree. He pointed out that the parents of many of those present had come from the old country to give their children a better chance to get somewhere in the world and a better country to live in, and those children, he stated, should not be slow to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them.

Mr. P. Svarich carried the felicitations of the Vegreville school board to the trustees of Kolomea on the occasion of the opening of the new school. Mr. Svarich told some of the history of the founding of the district. He was the first secretary of the district, its organizer, contractor and builder of the school and procurer of the first teacher, a Miss Jackman who came all the way from Toronto and who worked for \$60 a month and lived above the school.

A very strong patriotic note was struck in the songs and recitations given by the pupils preceding the list of speeches. Some of the little boys and girls were very pleasing in their little turns. And we have it in no less an authority than Owen Williams himself, that there were some very fine voices in the different choruses.

Remember When . . . Kolomea **by M. H. Tomyň**

. . . we went skiing behind the sleighs and cutters in winter? Sometimes we returned wet and late.

. . . Lawrence's horse ran away from us during our skiing? When the horse came home, Lawrence's dad was alarmed, thinking there had been a serious accident.

. . . Olga Mae fell off the buggy and broke her arm? In our frenzy we could think of no better splints than two rulers.

. . . the children played in the basement so aggressively that they could barely see each other because of the dust they raised?

. . . the teacher encouraged the game of marbles in the basement in winter? He won most of the marbles in the game "for keeps" and the boys had to borrow from him until they picked up the art.

. . . we had a skating rink on the schoolyard — boards, goal posts, and all? The goalie had cedar shingles in his trouser legs, held in position with several rubber jar rings or strips of car tube.

. . . some of the children initially played hockey with curved willow sticks? Sometimes, they actually got the puck away from a better-equipped player.

. . . the teacher's son, Michael, took out some grapes (or was it marshmallows?) for a snack, and was cleaned up in no time flat by the bigger boys?

. . . the school children and teachers, in 1939, went to Edmonton to see King George VI on Portage Avenue (Kingsway)? They all rode there and back in Ray's big farm truck.

. . . the school had Christmas Concerts on a makeshift stage in school and later in the Royal Park hall? The audience was always overflowing.

. . . the boys had to clean out the barn because their horses' posteriors were reaching the ceiling?

. . . the children went picnicking in the ravine on the

last day of school? The big rock marked the end of the racetrack.

. . . at the picnic, George, a grade ten student, tried to hold up three boys in the form of a crude pyramid?

. . . the softball teams played the surrounding schools for "the fun of it"?

. . . slingshots were banned; yet some boys smuggled them in?

. . . the school inspector came around and everyone was on best behavior?

. . . the children studied (reviewed) outside during hot weather in June?

. . . the teacher, Mrs. R., came to school by car in winter, only when the cooperating parents plowed the road for her? The farmers used a walking plow attached to the rear right runner of the horse-drawn sleigh. Sometimes this meant going across the fields where the snow was not so deep.

. . . Ian Reid came to practice-teach in our school? Shortly after, he joined the R. C. A. F. (World War II) and paid the supreme sacrifice for his country.

. . . the bigger children "volunteered" to hoe the whole stretch of shelter belt around the schoolyard? The exercise prepared them for the review session before the final departmental examinations.

Our Education — or Something Like It **by W. Kostash**

Our education was something out of this world. It began for all of us in a one-room school organized in 1905 and named Kolomea in honour of the town of Kolomea in Ukraine where Father and Uncle Peter went to gymnasium. Its construction reflected the advanced architecture of its time — frame structure, raised platform with the teacher's desk in the middle, windows on two sides, steep rickety stairs leading up the attic where the teacher cooked, wept, and slept.

In those days winters were more severe than they are today, or so it seemed to us who did not have suitable clothing to buck the strong winds as we trudged through the snowdrifts. I had three miles of winding trail through heavy poplar and willow groves, around swamps or muskegs. Consequently, schools in those days operated for only about seven or eight months in the spring, summer and early fall. Thus in the two years in this school I had had perhaps fifteen or sixteen months of schooling. Now, what sort of schooling was it?

My first timid venture into the educational world ended in disaster and a hasty retreat from it. I was about six. On the first day the teacher called me to his desk on the raised platform in full view of my classmates and began to ask questions. What they were, I do not recall. In any event, I burst into tears and was sent to my desk in disgrace. Since this performance

was repeated each day for a week, wiser counsels prevailed and I was withdrawn from school — a drop-out at the age of six and quarter.

Next spring we tried it again. Fortunately, we had a change of teachers. (In those days trustees changed their teachers more often than they changed their sox) He was more understanding and understandable, for we communicated with each other in our Mother Tongue. A good thing all around as he had just arrived from the Old Country and English was not exactly his strongest point.

But this fortune was not to last. Halfway through the spring term, he was fired on orders from a Departmental official. Our teacher was found to be a citizen of an enemy country and therefore an alien. This was at the outbreak of World War I. So that was it.

To complete the term, we got an ancient relic from the British Isles, about whom I remember two things. One is that he used to carry a willow cane which he usually kept upstairs. Every time one of his overgrown boys in Grade four or five misbehaved, he would clatter up the creaky steps for the cane, come down, and wham it across the sturdy back of the unfortunate culprit, while we sat petrified — and counted the whacks.

The other thing I remember about him is the geography lessons. You must understand that by now I was in the sixth month of schooling and was introduced to geography in real earnest. He would line up all fifteen of us — in front of the class and take us on an imaginary tour of Western Canada on a map (courtesy, Gage and Co.) which showed the physical features of the Prairie Provinces. I do not think my love for travel stems from those imaginary trips. It was not until some years later that I learned that the funny marks on the map represented mountains and not piles of buffalo chips as one older and more sophisticated lad next to me informed me. This teacher had apparently heard of the integrated program, for he integrated reading with geography. On one occasion he thrust at me a Dominion School Geography (Ontario Edition, 1902) and told me to read certain designated paragraphs. Which I did. Then he took the book away and said, “Now write”. Then, mercifully, came the winter vacation — four months of it.

Next spring we got still another teacher. Him I remember well. He was the most glamorous of them all, and he gave us our first encounter with a genuine R.N.W.M. policeman. But we liked this teacher particularly because he was a 20th century version of Don Quixote — tall, elderly and spare, nattily dressed, gold-rimmed glasses perched on the bridge of his aquiline nose, and a Van Dyke beard adorning

his chin. Of course, we promptly nicknamed him Tzapok, meaning in Ukrainian “Goat”.

He taught us many games: King’s Base, London Bridge’s Falling Down, and Last Couple Out. This last game we liked best: we were allowed to choose girls for partners and it required our holding their hands. When the weather was good, he took us out and we sat in a circle on the grass. Then he would read to us about the Playgrounds of Eton, Jungle Book Stories, and Arabian Nights’ Entertainment. We understood little, but in our imaginations, the heroes and the heroines, the battles and the victories were there in our very schoolyard. Then disaster struck again. It happened on just one of those beautiful May mornings.

As we were sitting entranced, listening to the teacher, behold a Mountie, resplendent in a red tunic, straight-brimmed hat, leather boots, spurs and all, rode down the road leading a saddled horse. He turned into the schoolyard, dismounted by the group of us who were by now goggle-eyed with excitement. He spoke a few words to the teacher, told us we were dismissed, asked the teacher to gather up his belongings, mounted him on the spare horse and the two disappeared around the first bend in the road. That was the last we saw of him.

It was not the easiest thing to pick up a teacher, just like that, whenever one was needed. These were war years and all the able-bodied and sound-minded young men were either wearing the King’s uniform or toiling in an alien concentration camp somewhere in northern Ontario. We did manage to get a young man; but whether he was a refugee from the army or the concentration camp, we never found out. But he knew his three R’s and was willing to sign a contract for the remaining four months of the school year. I shall always have a warm spot in my heart for him. For two reasons.

One is that apparently he had the clear vision of a true teacher: he taught us only what was relevant. We all agreed on that. We believed that the destruction of the gopher was relevant to the survival of grain farming. So he let us go out in good weather and bad to snare, trap, flood out or otherwise catch and kill gophers. That made sense to us.

The school was surrounded a few hundred yards away by a dense grove of poplars. So what could be more relevant to our interest in nature than to drop our slates and slate pencils and to dash into the bush at the call, “There’s a lynx treed in the bush”. The Huckleberry Finn of our school would then grab his muzzle loader and we would trail him into the bush. We never saw the lynx, but we did see many partridges, picked wild strawberries and mushrooms in the process.

The other thing I remember about this teacher is the priceless treasures he gave us towards the end of his term — books, wonderful books with actual colored pictures in them — one book to each of us. It was not until somewhat later that we learned why he had given us those wonderful books. His contract was for four months, or as long as there were kids still in attendance. And I recall that he said he would give us books at the END of the term. Whatever his motives, we treasured the books, read them and reread them until they fell apart.

Vegreville — Here I Come!

Then, in 1915, I was sent to school in Vegreville, a graded town school which operated for the full school year. Two years earlier, Father had built a two-room shack in town, furnished it with a tin stove, two beds, a table and four chairs. For the next fourteen years all six of us brothers lived, studied and played in that shack — three or four of us at a time, younger ones coming in as the older ones graduated and moved out. It was known as the Kostash Bursa. Besides providing accommodation for us boys, it frequently was a “hostel” for some of Harry’s impecunious teacher-friends who taught in the districts around Vegreville. It was not unusual for four or five of them to sleep over the weekend in one bed, while we did what we could to find room on the other bed or on the floor.

We bached, of course. Once a week Father brought us some grub: bread in a sack, a gallon of milk, perhaps a roast chicken. Mother, dear soul, always tucked in somewhere among the jars of sauerkraut, jugs and boxes, something very special — some delicacy like deep-fried “long johns” or half a plain cake marbled with the red cake dye that was a popular item bought from the Watkin’s itinerant peddler. We added to this fare fried potatoes and pork. I think I ate fried potatoes every day of the week for the six years I resided in the shack. Perhaps that’s why I was called, among other names, Porky???

Avon School District No. 1518

- July 1, 1906 the Avon School District No. 1518 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, in Township 51, Range 12; and Sections 10-15, 22-27 and 34-36 in Township 51, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- Senior Trustee at the time was Joseph Haire, of Dinwoodie, Alberta.
- September 22, 1906 the sum of eight hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting a school house.

- Treasurer at the time was John T. Neill, of Ranfurly, Alberta.
- February 13, 1907 the following lands were withdrawn: Sections 27 and 34 in Township 51, Range 13. West of the Fourth Meridian.
- November 1, 1937 the Avon School District No. 1518 was included in Sub Division No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- April 9, 1957 the sale of site of the Avon School District No. 1518 was approved.
- January 13, 1961 the following lands were transferred from the Aplomb School District No. 2917 to the Avon School District No. 1518: Section 6, in Township 51, Range 12; Section 1, North-east quarter of Section 2, in Township 51, Range 13; Also the following lands were transferred from the Avon School District No. 1518 to the Lavoy School District No. 1598: West halves of Sections 26 and 35, in township 51, Range 13; Also the following lands were transferred from the Avon School District No. 1518 to the Victory School District No. 3708: Sections 10, 15 and 22; West halves of Sections 11, 14 and 23, in Township 51, Range 13; All West of the Fourth Meridian.
- September 15, 1964 the Avon School District No. 1518 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below by Carrie Beamish)

Avon School was built in 1906 on land donated by Bill Cruickshank.

The first teacher was Miss Power who boarded at the home of the Hares. She taught approximately twenty-five children. Mrs. Jock Tweedale and Midge Dinwoodie also taught there in the early years.

The school had been closed for some time but reopened in 1942. Miss Semotiuk was the last supervisor at the school and boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Beamish. Avon School was permanently closed in 1948.

Ranfurly School District No. 1542

by John H. Austin, October, 1979

The first day of school at Ranfurly was June 1, 1907. The teacher was Miss McBain from Eastern Canada. Her term ended at Christmas that year. The building — a 12 x 14 foot lumber shack situated east of town beyond the slough on high land near the C.N. track, was rented from Mr. MacIntosh. Some of the first pupils attending there were: Roy and Mable Watson, children of Court Watson, the resident C.N. section foreman, May Steele (Wager), Laurence Steele, Raul Blais, Cecil Snowball, Wilfred Sumner,



School Fair Parade, Ranfurly. 1924.

Vernie and Pearl Moses, Joe Carr, Jr., Francis, Joe and John Austin.

Bissel Bros. were employed to build a new school building on the present school site that fall. That school opened in January, 1908, with Myrtle Stewart of Dewberry our teacher. Miss Stewart later became Mrs. Colin Montgomery and was our farm neighbor for nearly fifty years. The first heater or stove — cast iron — was rectangular — about 18" x 40". Then a pot-bellied round upright cast coal-burner struggled to keep out the winter cold. The school was the social centre for Christmas Box Socials and Concerts, dances, meetings, etc. Ranfurly's "Literary Society" had entertainment on fortnightly schedule, during winter months. In 1912 there were thirty to thirty-five enrolled, with Miss Jean Chisholm the teacher. About ten years later May Steele taught forty-two at an annual wage \$1200.00.

About mid-1920's a second room and another teacher were added. Winter of 28/29 the two-room school burned. Fritz Lundgren and other carpenters then built a three-room school in 1929. Some years later there were additions including an auditorium.

In the 1940's Ranfurly School District was absorbed into the Vegreville School Division, later the County of Minburn. Wally Kennedy was Secretary-Treasurer for the Division for several years. Local Secretaries were Wm. Nichol, R. H. Clark, Ab. Brower and others. J. A. McDougal was the very first Secretary.

In the late 1930's three rooms were filled, and high school was taught. Some teachers then were Mr. Pope, Bud Beattie, Lynn Hanna, Mary Dwyer and George Young.

School consolidation with bus transportation and Composite High School in Vegreville gradually drew pupils to Innisfree, Lavoy and Vegreville schools. I understand that Ranfurly school is now down to one junior teacher, so it is very likely to be closed in the near future.

Mayflower School District #1560

by Peter Wyllie

Early reports on the history of the Mayflower School are very sketchy; it appears the school was built between 1900 and 1905, prior to Alberta becoming a province. The school was built on the north-west corner of Section 16, Township 50, Range 14, West of the 4th Meridian. This location was a half mile west and three miles south of Imperial Community Centre. Sometime after the school was built it was opened and operated for about six months, then closed and remained closed until 1920.

It is not known if a Trustee Board was established in the beginning, but it is known that during the period of closure and when school reopened no Trustees were ever elected in the district. Fred Fordham, a farmer in the district was appointed as secretary-treasurer in the beginning and retained this position until the nineteen thirties. As secretary-treasurer and sole trustee Mr. Fordham kept the school in readiness by periodically having it painted and the necessary fireguard plowed.

In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Fordham went back to England for a visit, leaving James Wyllie in charge of his farm and looking after the school. He was also authorized to issue the teacher's monthly pay cheque. The teacher at that time was Dorothy Harkness, from Vegreville, teaching at her first school.

From information received from pupils who attended the school in the twenties and thirties, here are some of the family names with first names following, who attended Mayflower:

Bruce — Frank, Grace, Leo
 Erolingers — First names unknown
 Field — Harvey
 Fundytus — Annie, Angel, Peter, Johnnie, Mike
 Gienger — Reinhold, William, Ernest, Frieda,
 Theodore, Albert, Margaret, Madeleine, Amelea,
 Adam
 Hammer — Olga, Ruth
 Helmer — Sybil, Myrtle, Melvin
 Hutchinson — Wilmot, Eldon, Madeline
 Kuzyk — Helen, Yaradaw, Jerry, Annie, Olga,
 Lassie
 Lafleur — Rumeal, Elphege
 Markeson — Olga, Nima
 Rae — Christine, Thomas, George, Peggy
 Sampert — Emma, Esther
 Sawchuk — Joey
 Wyllie — William, James, John, Robert, Andrew, Mary

Zackaruk — Billy, Mary, Rose, Doris, Annie

In the earlier twenties, some of the aforementioned students travelled up to four and five miles to attend the Mayflower school. Around 1925 the Radio

School District was formed and Radio school was built on the Vegreville Bruce road, fifteen miles south of Vegreville. A number of pupils at Mayflower transferred to the Radio school.

The first teacher at Mayflower, when it opened it 1920, was a Miss Sampert. Other teachers who presided over Mayflower pupils, not necessarily in order of tenure, were — Miss Tillison, Laurie Hill, Mrs. Hoskins, Mrs. M. Collison, Edith Briggs, Mr. Campbell, Gladys Burkholder, Nellie Docherty, Dora Dean, Dorothy Harkness, Mrs. Booby, and Grace (Bruce) Appleby.

In 1935, 36, 37, a George Herchuk apparently acted as secretary-treasurer. The year the school was closed for good is not known. However, whenever it was closed the school building was sold to Mr. Kiist, who moved it to his farm, where it is still being used as a farm residence.

Mayflower School District No. 1560

— October 11, 1906 the Mayflower School District No. 1560 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 7-10, 15-22 and the south halves of Sections 27-30 in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was B. Gray, of Martins, Alberta.

— January 11, 1907 the sum of twelve hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house.

— Treasurer at the time was E. B. Hummel, of Martins, Alberta.

— October 6, 1911 F. Fordham of Vegreville, Alberta was appointed Official Trustee.

— July 22, 1916 the following lands were added: the north halves of Sections 27-30 in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— September 15, 1916 the following lands were withdrawn: the north halves of Sections 27-30 in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— October 26, 1937 the Mayflower School District No. 1560 was included in Subdivision No. 4 of the Holden School Division No. 17.

— November 29, 1954 the Mayflower School District No. 1560 was transferred from the Holden School Division No. 17 to the Vegreville School Division No. 19.

— December 8, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Mayflower School District No. 1560 to the Radio School District No. 4202: Sections 7-10, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— September 15, 1964 the Mayflower School District No. 1560 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.



Senior room, Lavoy School, 1928. Front row (l. to r.) — Bernie Bricker, Reuben Bricker, Glen Smiley. Second row (l. to r.) — Margaret Hughes, Helen Semenluk, Bunny Tuck, Mildred Tuck, Mary Shewchuk, Mary Semenluk, Alice Cleveley. Third row (l. to r.) — Bobby Rattray, Harvey Ford, Clarence Kittle, Dan Walsh — Principal, Norman Robinson, Gerry Bricker, Steve Shewchuk. Fourth row (l. to r.) — Myrtle James, Mary Gregg, Nancy Wolinsky, Alice Hoytenluk, Gladys Johnson, Elva Smiley, Muriel Kittle, Dorothy Purdue, Margaret Nairn, Ruby Ford, Margaret Peters.

Lavoy School District No. 1598

— February 13, 1907 the Lavoy School District No. 1598 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 27-34, in Township 51, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was H. B. Hughes of Lavoy, Alberta.

— April 23, 1908 the sum of five thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of paying balance on school site; building and equipping a brick or concrete school building.

— Treasurer at the time was C. F. Bentley of Lavoy, Alberta.

— March 12, 1912 the sum of three thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of paying off indebtedness contracted by erecting, furnishing and improving of the school building.

— Treasurer at the time was A. A. Pass of Lavoy, Alberta.

— March 12, 1919 the following lands were added:



Lavoy Public and High School, 1937. Back row (l. to r.) — Gordie Tweedale, Rueben Bricker, Max Tuck, Alex Boris, Mike Semeniuk, Nick Wolinski, Herb Bricker, Stan Rosequist, George Paquette, Glen Smiley, Ronald Hughes, Howard Burnett, Nick Shewchuk, Jock (Jockey) Rattray, Hollis Tuck. Third row: George Baldwin Jr., Warren Rosequist, Anne Semetiuk, Eva Tuck, Margaret Hughes, Beatrice Kittle, Olga Tyzuk, Elizabeth Hoyteniuk, Francois Purdue, Norma Ford, Islay Suddaby, Sadie Sawchuk, Lena Tunis, Nina Tyzuk, Garry Bricker, Nick Gordey. Second row: Miss Swanson (teacher), Bill Rattray, Raymond Allore, Olga Zawadiuk, Mary Semetiuk, Donna Ford, Elizabeth Koban, Lorraine Allore, Mary Kostiniuk, Elizabeth Wolinski, Dolly Sobershanski, Madeleine Semeniuk, Phyllis Hughes, Genevieve Rattray, Eva Kostiniuk, Betty Fleming, Dorothy Fleming, Earl McDonald (teacher). Front row: Peter Gordey, George Shewchuk, Glen Tuck, Bobby Arthur, Nick Tyzuk, Joe Tunis, Mike Kostiniuk, Jim Purdue, Bruce Rattray, Metro Semetiuk, George Shewchuk, Lawrence Smiley, Johnny Gordey.

Sections 16 and 17, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

- May 26, 1920 the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building new two-roomed frame school house with concrete basement, and equipment.
- Treasurer at the time was B. U. Cooper, Lavoy, Alberta.
- November 22, 1945 the following lands were added: the south half of Section 21 in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- May 10, 1950 approval was given to sell the old school barn.
- December 30, 1954 the Lavoy School District No. 1598 was included in Subdivision No. 1 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- January 13, 1961 the following lands were transferred to the Lavoy School District No. 1598

from the Highlow School District No. 816: Section 20 East halves of Section 18 and 19, north-west quarter of Section 21, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian. Also from the Nuttborough and Avon School Districts



Lavoy School built of cement blocks. School burned down October 23, 1919.



Lavoy School Grade 1 pupils, 1928. Back row (l. to r.) — Max Tuck, Ronald Hughes, Jim Ford, Mike Semeniuk, Donald Rat-tray, Delmar Dinwoodie. Middle row (l. to r.) — Stan Bortoshuk, Reuben Bricker, John Rat-tray, Howard Burnett, Nick Wolinski. Front row (l. to r.) — Elizabeth Hoyteniuk, Joan Bentley, Miriam McLeod.

the following lands were transferred to the Lavoy School District: North-east quarter of Section 21, in Township 52, Range 13,; West halves of Sec-tion 26 and 35, in Township 51, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

- November 3, 1961 sale of site of the Lavoy School District No. 1598 was given approval.



Lavoy School — originally High School built in 1946.



Lavoy School — 1960.

- September 15, 1964 the Lavoy School District No. 1598 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.



Lavoy School — grade eight and nine class, 1955. Back row (l. to r.) — Sally Kraychy, Arthur Fedyna, Harry Maximchuk (Governor-General Medal Recipient), Orest Olineck, Bill Farion, Marshall Grykuliak, Ed Rudyk, David Yushchyshyn, Lawrence Legan, Tom Yaremko, Gavin Suddaby, Alice Charuk, Michael H. Tomy — teacher and principal. Middle row (l. to r.) — Allan Lemiski, Emily Samoil, Lillian Semeniuk, Lillian Samoil, Katherine Semeniuk, Rose Juba, Mary Danyluk, Doreen Harter, Elizabeth Samoil, Vicky Bushko, Marilyn Farion, Patsy Storozenko. Front row (sitting l. to r.) — Michael Samoil, Allan Paltzat, David Sokalski, Eugene Mishio, Ernest Duliba, Eddie Footz, Wayne Smiley, Eugene Kulmatycki.

Lavoy School Put on Two Big Concerts in One Year

Easter Concert — Lavoy School — April 13, 1960

1. Duet — The Old Rugged Cross — Helen Horon and Shirley Melnyk.
2. Songs — If You're Irish
— How Can I Buy Killarney — Grade 9
3. Recitation — A Happy Day — Larry Wade
4. Song — The Little Bird's Ball — Grades 2 and 3
5. Duet — Are You Mine? — Gail Huculak and Angeline Killick
6. Duet — The Old Lamp Lighter — Betty Kalynchuk and Lynn Suddaby
7. Recitation — Pussy Willow — John Sanford
8. Duet — Put On Your Easter Bonnet — Joyce Kittle and Marion Samoil
9. Duet — Mary, Don't You Weep — Lorraine Huculak and Rose Weleschuk
10. Recitation — Tinkie-Boo — Wendie Fitch
11. Song — Here Comes Peter Cottontail — Grades 2 and 3
12. Recitation — An Easter Wish — Delene Dinwoodie

13. Piano Solo — Iris Samoil
14. Solo — The Old Lamplighter — Gordon Tuck
15. Accordion Solo — Sandra Smiley
16. Solo — Gisha Girl — Billy Newchuk
17. Song — All Through the Night — Grades 6 and 7
18. Recitation — Greeting the Easter Bunny — Brian Chomyc
19. Recitation — The Secret — Joyce Motiuk and Marlene Mishio
20. Solo — The Mocking Bird — Marie Korpan
21. Duet and Piano Accordion — Sophie Mykietyshyn and Nadia Samoil
22. Recitation — At Easter Time — Nick Newchuk and Brian Chomyc
23. Piano Solo — Bob Albers
24. Piano Accordion Solo — Shirley Melnyk
25. Quartette — Bill Newchuk, Albert Leskow, Betty Kalynchuk, Susie Newchuk
26. Song Arrangements — Patsy and Sylvia Olineck

God Save the Queen

Following article, courtesy of Vegreville Observer
— Thursday, January 5, 1961.



Lavoy School Students — 1951 — Grades 1-4. Left to right: Front row — Leo Juba, Wallace Moch, Kenneth Pichach, Walter Wolinski, Ernie Koban, Dennis Mock. 2nd row — Mary Jane Kott, Joan Haluschak, Connie Guglick, Geraldine Kalynchuk, Cecille Bushko, Joan Horon, Billy Kittle. 3rd row — Patsy Storozhenko, Joyce Sikal, Jean Oullette, Katie Ewuc, Helen Spaidal, Lillian Semeniuk, Myron Wicentowich. Not on picture — Joyce Pichach, Jim Johnston, Iris Haluschak, Joan Samoil, Terris Sikal, Joan Sikal, Joan Kittle, Ronnie Babuik.



Lavoy Students — 1951 — Grades 5-9. Left to right: Front row — Stan Ewuc, Allan Paltzat, David Yuschyshyn, Lorne Carleton, Eugene Pelletier, Wayne Spaidal. 2nd row — Ernest Paltzat, Eugene Laschuk, Francis Spaidal, Katherine Semeniuk, Rose Juba, Vicki Bushko, Annette Pelletier. 3rd row — Benny Oullette, Eddie Kott, Johnny Semeniuk, Terry Semeniuk, Elizabeth Lowe, Elizabeth Olineck, Olga Shewchuk, Victoria Dudziak, Helen Nowicki, Katie Wicentowich, Gladys Pichach. Not on picture — Elizabeth Storozhenko, Marjorie Koban, Myron Lencewich, Lillian Olineck, Angela Nowicki, Doris Johnson.

Annual Xmas Concert Enjoyed by Hundreds (1960) (Courtesy Vegreville Observer)

Once again the auditorium of the Lavoy school was filled to capacity as parents and friends of the students attending, gathered to see the annual Christmas concert on which much time is spent to ensure a good and enjoyable evening. No one was disappointed as from the first "Welcome" by Gail Huculak and Choral Speech "Christmas Welcome" by Grade one's to the "Dilemma of a Pedagogue" by Principal M. Tomy, the program kept moving and interesting items were presented.

Carols and songs were sung by Grades 6 and 7: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "We Three Kings", while Grades 3 and 4 rendered "Rudolph", and the Grade 1's "Oh Where?". The two plays by Grades 7 and 8: "Sparky and His Pals" and "Antigossip Club" were very well done and the students in these plays are to be commended for their good portrayals and diction.

The two dances of Grades 2 and 3: "Heel and Toe

Polka" and "Minuet" saw miniature ladies and gentlemen doing their best, while the 'Butterfly Dance' by the third and fourth grades kept the dancers whirling very picturesquely. The tumbling of Grades 5 and 6, together with the building of pyramids, was beautifully and gracefully done and well received.

Carols in English and Ukrainian were the contribution of the grade 9 class which did very well in both languages. The Western songs of Patsy Olineck were also most enjoyable. Instrumental music was the offering of Grades 5 and 6 and featured violins, mandolins and guitars, while a repertoire of instrumental musical selections by A. Leskow and B. Newchuk from Grade 9 on the electric guitar were given, and two accordion solos by Sandra Smiley and Shirley Melnyk completed an array of musical instrument selections.

Two Ukrainian recitations by Iris Pauk and Peter Killick were also well received by the audience. "The Dilemma of a Pedagogue" by Mr. Tomy showed how often teachers are stuck for an answer.

Two honor awards were presented to Iris Samoil and Joan Suddaby, by W. Porayko who stated that, since Honor Awards were instituted, Lavoy has never let him down, for they have always received, it seems, more than their share. He urged the students to carry on this tradition, complimenting the students who had participated in the program, and remarked on the good-sized audience.

The last item on the agenda, the raffle, saw the first prize of a salad set awarded to Stan Rogalski, Edmonton; second prize of a glass set awarded to Mrs. A. Jacobson, Lavoy; and third prize, a box of chocolates, going to Linda Grekulak. The top sellers of tickets, Terriss Orfino and Donna Jacobson, received respectively \$2.00 and \$1.00. The proceeds of this ticket sale are going to buy treats for the school students and children under six years at the concert.

Much credit for the enjoyable concert is extended to the students and teachers for a job well done.

Kiew School District #1693 and New Kiew Community

by M. H. Tomyn

The history of the school district itself would not be complete without recalling briefly, the story of the settlement known at present as New Kiew Community. Early in the year 1900, a party of surveyors and their assistants arrived from Strathcona, which was then the nearest point connected by railway, to survey the district for settlement by thousands of land-hungry immigrants from Western Ukraine, people who were freedom-loving and could no longer bear the oppression of the semi-feudal system of the Austrian Empire and Polish landlords.

At that time the district presented a picture quite unlike the one we are now familiar with. It was all covered with forests, dotted with numerous sloughs and chains of lakes connected by clear-water creeks, many of which thrived with a smaller variety of fish. There were no roads of any kind and the only traces of life were old buffalo paths and Indian trails crisscrossing the country.

The first settlers came in 1901. They were Ukrainians and a small percentage were Poles. Most of the settlers had arrived by 1902. In the summer of 1903 the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish was organized, and members immediately undertook the building of a small log chapel. Initially a part of this church was partitioned off for a classroom, but because of its small size it was never used. In the meantime the parents taught their children the Ukrainian language at home. Sometimes they sent their child to the Convent School conducted by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate at Beaver Lake, three miles east of Mundare.



Kiew School, 1916. Back row (l. to r.) — John Sawchuk, Steve Killick, Fred Yuskow, Andrew Yakimetz, Peter D. Samoil. Front row (l. to r.) — Pearl Yaremko, Ksenka Steblyk, Katie Yakimetz, Tina Sokalski, Pearl Steblyk; Bill D. Samoil (towards front).

The New Kiew School District No. 1693 was organized in 1908. The preliminary meeting was held at the home of Pete Steblyk, where the first school board was elected. The first trustees were Iwan Juba, chairman, Jacob Yuskow and Tymko Yaremko. The first Secretary-Treasurer was Peter Svarich of Vegreville who also got the contract for the original school building, located on S.E. corner of N.W. 17-53-13-W4. The school was completed that same year and opened early in the fall, but classes did not last long. The first teacher, Joseph Sullivan, died suddenly after only two or three days of work. He was discovered early one morning by two small children who brought him milk for his breakfast. W. Steblyk, who was only eight years old then, and his sister discovered the body. The following teacher was L. B. Mark. The first class consisted of pupils of various sizes ranging in age from six to eighteen, all laboriously studying their A B C's and "Helen See Apple".

Because money was scarce and teachers a rare commodity, school was open only a few months a year, and the children's progress was slow. Following the First World War, school began to operate regularly and many pupils continued their education in high school upon their graduation from the local school. Among the former pupils who entered pro-

fessional fields of endeavor were Dick (Dmytro) Geleta who completed his course in pharmacy and was the druggist in and mayor of Two Hills for 37 years; William Yuskow who completed his course in chemistry at the University of Alberta; George Yuskow; William Bushko; M. Ewaschuk; Mrs. Pearl Kuss (nee Steblyk); Steve Samoil and Nick Samoil, all of whom became teachers after completing their Normal School training.

The list of teachers at Kiew School was long. Besides those mentioned previously, the following taught at one time or another: Dr. Gregory Nowak, 1910; Miss Rose, 1914; Michael Luchkowich, 1917-18 (later a Member of Parliament for Vegreville Federal Constituency, 1926-1935); Voldimer Mastiuk, 1924; George Yuskow; Pearl Steblyk, early 1930's; Mary (Stewart) Gordon, 1938-42; Nestor Chmilar, 1941-46; William Bushko, 1937-38, 47, and George Cucheran 1947-53.

The school was closed in 1953 and the pupils were vanned to Lavoy and Two Hills.

In 1954 W. Steblyk bought the school building by tender and moved it to Vegreville where it serves as a duplex across the back lane from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, on the site of the first curling rink. (See map page 1018.)

The families who belonged to the Kiew School District at one time or another, between 1908 and 1953 are as follows: Bachynski, Bushko, Cymbaluk, Chapelski, Dmyterko, Duk, Ewaschuk, Fedyna, Ferleyko, Geleta, Horon, Juba, Kraychy, Killick, Kitz, Kitlarchuk, Kuchik, Kisilewich, Misik, Pauk, Pasieka, Samoil, Semeniuk, Swihun, Sawchuk, Steblyk, Sokalski, Semenovich, Wyshinski, Yuskow, Yaremco, Yaremko, Yakimetz.

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas at New Kiew was organized as a parish in 1903. The first church, a log building, was started in 1906 on the S.E. corner of S.E. 28-53-13-W4. It was completed in 1909 and served the parish until 1918 when a new church, of lumber and customary design, was built on the S.W. corner of N.W. 22-53-13-W4. The new church assumed a new name — The Church of Holy Ascension. The first church was torn down in 1952. In 1929 the parish built a new hall, to add another dimension to the parish. Since then a newer and bigger hall was erected in 1961. (Photo page 790.)

The Labor Hall (U.L.F.T.A.), across the road from the first Catholic Church, was moved to the Ukrainian Heritage Village by Elk Island Park a few years ago.

The R.C. Parish of St. Peter and Paul in the New Kiew District was organized in 1905 and the church was built in 1906, location being the N.W. corner of

N.W. 34-53-13-W4. An imposing new church was built in 1945-46.

Another church, subsequently called the Russian Orthodox Church, was built about 1906 on the N.W. corner of S.W. 30-53-13-W4. Its final resting place is the Ukrainian Heritage Village by Elk Island Park.

For some of the above information, the writer is indebted to the following people: N. Chmilar, W. Steblyk, J. Misik, and G. Yuskow.

Birch Hill School District No. 1704

by John H. Austin

The first recorded meeting of the Board of Trustees was December 12, 1907. Bylaw No. 1 — to issue debentures of \$800.00 to build a school. J. C. Haggard was chairman and R. H. Giboney secretary. Other early board members were John and Ed. Pittman.

One acre of land was bought as a school site at the northwest corner of Sec. 21-50-12 for \$15.00. The tender for lumber was let to Bond Brothers of Lavoy. Mr. E. A. Phalen supplied school building plans at \$3.25. Sam Neil contracted to build the school at \$175.00. W. P. Garner painted the building, one coat, at \$18.00. Other early expenditures were:

W. J. Moses — hauling furniture at \$4.00

George Haggard - hauling sand and water — \$21.00

Arthur Rodwell — hauling lumber and water — \$4.25

Blowey Henry Co. — furniture and equipment — \$130.23

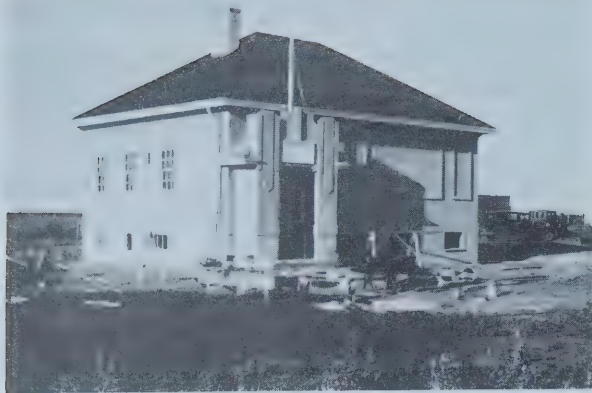
J. S. Woods — letter file — \$1.25

A. C. Whittman — for stove — \$17.00

R. H. Giboney, secretary-treasurer — pay for six months in 1908 was \$25.00. School was insured for \$1,000.00. Tax rate was set at 7¢ per acre. Mr. E. (Ted) Chandler became secretary-treasurer in January, 1909. Other secretaries in later years were: A. P. Coe, Fritz Lungren, E. H. Chandler, Russel Tait and John Austin.

About the mid 1930's the Municipal Districts began collecting the school taxes and supplying the operating money to school districts. Birch Hill became part of the Vegreville School Division No. 19 in 1938. Thereafter the local board had no financial responsibilities. Francis P. Austin represented Division No. 2 of Vegreville School Division. He became Chairman of the Board.

The original 1908 school was torn down and moved to serve on Horseshoe Ranch. A new school was built at Birch Hill in 1941. This school burned down in January of 1943 on a 50 degree F. below-zero morning. Nick Hawreliuk was the janitor and fire-



Birch Hill School, near Ranfurly, being constructed in 1938 by Ed. Eickmeyer. Burned down soon after and rebuilt by Ed.

man. He grabbed his coat and ran when he became aware of the fire.

A temporary building was put up in February of 1943 which was replaced with a new school that summer. Birch Hill ceased to operate in June, 1955. Pupils have since been bused to Ranfurly, Innisfree, Lavoy and Vegreville.

Teachers at Birch Hill

George W. Davison, 1908
 Miss J. A. Briggs, 1909
 Miss de Guerre, 1910
 Miss Priscilla Briggs, 1911
 Harry Roberts, 1912
 F. P. Austin, 1913
 Miss Fanny Acherman, 1915-16
 Miss Grace Lynch, 1917
 Miss Vera Lee, 1918
 J. D. Gilchrist, 1919
 H. B. Hotson, 1920
 Mrs. C. E. Gilchrist, 1921
 Mrs. E. J. Hutchinson, 1920-21
 Miss Annie Donnelly, 1922
 Miss Isobel Pursky (became Mrs. F. Lundgren)
 Miss Jean Deby, 1923-24
 Miss Phyllis Law, 1925
 Miss M. McLaggan, 1926-27
 Miss Mildred Pearce (became Mrs. Steve Nichol), 1927-28
 Miss K. Plumley, 1929
 Miss Ruth Harvey, 1931
 Miss K. Johnson (became Mrs. D. Dorward), 1931-32-33
 Miss Minnie Pomrenk (became Mrs. G. Patrick), 1933-34
 Miss E. M. Bertwell, 1936-37
 Miss M. White, 1940.
 Miss Jean Gibson

Miss Ann Fulton, 1943
 Miss Towpich, 1946
 Miss Romanuik
 John Berezan
 Mrs. Mary Austin, 1951
 Miss Olga Makowecki
 Miss Jacula
 Miss Harris
 Mrs. P. Chilibeck
 George Kravetz
 Jerry Popil
 Mr. Bohaychuk

Zaporozh School District No. 2246

- July 25, 1910 the Zaporozh School District No. 2246 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 25-27, 34-36 and the east halves of Sections 28 and 33, in Township 52, Range 13; Sections 1-3; 11 and 12, in Township 53, Range 13; Section 29-32, in Township 52, Range 12; Section 5-8, in Township 53, Range 12; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- Senior Trustee at the time was John Stonehocker of Lavoy, Alberta.
- October 29, 1910 the sum of one thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a school house.
- Treasurer at the time was J. Stonehocker, of Lavoy, Alberta.
- March 12, 1919 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 25, in Township 52, Range 13; Section 30 and the south-west quarter of Section 29, in Township 52, Range 12; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- December 20, 1928 the following lands were withdrawn: South-east quarter of Section 26, in Township 52, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- November 1, 1937 the Zaporozh School District No. 2246 was included in Subdivision No. 1 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- December 8, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Zaporozh School District No. 2246 to the Krasne School District No. 2245: Sections 7 and 8, in Township 53, Range 12; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- October 27, 1955 sale of site and buildings of the Zaporozh School District No. 2246 was given approval.
- January 13, 1961 the following lands were transferred from the Hamburg School District No. 2247 to the Zaporozh School District No. 2246: West halves of Sections 28 and 33, in Township 52, Range 12; West half of Section 4, in Town-

ship 53, Range 12; West of the Fourth Meridian.
 — September 15, 1964 the Zaporozhe School District No. 2246 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below as told by B. D. Samoil)

Established July 25, 1910.

Located on the land of Jonas Feather, NW ¼ 36-52-13 W4.

The first teacher, in 1911, was Miss George who boarded with the John Stonehocker family. John was secretary of the School District. His father-in-law was Mr. McGregor who died fighting a fire.

The first Board of Trustees was: Theodore Woloshyn, Wasyl Farion, Mike Horon.

The second teacher was William Corry, and some of the others were: Thompson, Tyve, Brickett, Helen Yasheko, Phyllis Soldan, Sam Woloshyn, Connienedski (married Katie Hawirko)

The last teacher was John Misik.

Some former pupils who were educated at this school: Sam Woloshyn (became a teacher); Steve Samoil (teacher); Tillie Wakaluk (teacher); Steve Yakimyshyn (priest); Harry Maximchuk (computer programming); Richard Farion (agriculturist, now farming); Elizabeth Maximchuk (nurse); Kathleen Samoil (teacher), now Mrs. Michael Tomin; Emily Samoil (teacher) now Mrs. Thomas Powers; Elizabeth Samoil (teacher) now Mrs. James Miller of Nova Scotia; Peter Maximchuk (teacher); Marilyn Farion (teacher) now Mrs. Robulik; William Farion (geologist); Theodore Farion (teacher); Iris Samoil (historical geography) now Mrs. Sven Djurfors. Sven is a scientist at Fort McMurray.

The children drove to school and put horses in a barn which was built in the 1930's. The school was heated by a coal furnace with a tin shield around it. The school was also used as a community center for dances and social evenings and also for elections. It was closed in 1952 and pupils attended Lavoy Centralized School. It was sold and the yard is now used for a gravel stockpile.

Water flowed out of Sickman Lake in 1914 and again in 1974. The lake was dry in 1942.

Cotton Creek (often called Dry River) starts near Orfinos and another branch goes through the farms of Letwin, Kalynchuk, Grykuliak, Melnyk, McCutcheon, to Twin Lakes, then to Sickman Lake and on through Samois to the Vermilion River.

Aplomb School District No. 2917

by Mabel Yaremcio and Floyd Tuck

A meeting was called on April 16, 1913, at the home of W. W. Withers to organize some educational facilities for the district. Several interested parents



Aplomb Reunion, July 13, 1968. (l. to r.) — Bill Suddaby, Frank Hill, Laura (Hill) Iversen, Floyd Tuck, Pearl (Suddaby) Rodwell, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta — Grant MacEwan, Lilly (Withers) Winslow, M.L.A. — Alec Gordey. Five original pupils, 1915 to 1968.



Aplomb School class, 1915. Miss Olive Saltmarsh — teacher. (l. to r.) — Frank Hill, Pearl Suddaby, Laura Hill, Lilly Withers, Bill Suddaby, Grace Stinson.



Aplomb School group, 1919. Back row (l. to r.) — F. Tuck, Amy Johnson, Pearl Suddaby, Lilly Withers, Bill Suddaby, Boyd Tuck, Lawrence Johnson. Front row (l. to r.) — Bessie Suddaby, Maggie Suddaby.

decided to form a school district and work on building a school. Three trustees were appointed: Percy Rodwell, W. W. Withers and Peter Suddaby. The name Aplomb, which means assurance, self-confidence and poise, was chosen for the school.

Meetings were held regularly to organize and obtain information from the Department of Education. A site of two acres was picked for the new school on the north-west corner of Sec. 26-50-13-4 owned by the Hudson Bay Co. It was purchased for \$65.00 in 1913 and by May 25, 1914, the transfer and registering of the school site was completed.

The secretary-treasurer, Frank Hill Sr. prepared the Assessment Roll and the tax levy was set at 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents per acre. In 1915 the rate more than doubled to 10 cents an acre, in July 1918 it was 12 cents an acre and in 1922 it was up to 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents an acre. By 1924 the tax basis was replaced by a mill rate set at 8 mills.

The banking was first done at the Bank of Commerce in Vegreville, later at the Royal Bank in Ranfurly, then the Royal Bank in Lavoy and finally at the Bank of Montreal in Vegreville.

On April 15, 1914, a motion was passed to build a school. As there were only six students of school age, some difficulty was experienced in getting consent from the Department of Education. The Burkholder's children moved in with their grandparents in order to increase the enrollment. Finally permission was granted to build Aplomb School.

Meanwhile, arrangements were made to send the six students to the nearest school with an allowance of 50 cents per day for those who attended plus the tuition fee of 80 cents per child per month was paid to the parent for transportation and boarding costs. This payment was made by the Aplomb School Board.

Auditing of the books was first done by S. D. Bigham and later by Mr. E. (Ted) Chandler for \$5 per year.

By June 25, 1915, arrangements were made to draw up plans for a square building with a cottage roof to house 24 pupils, with a good heating and ventilating plant for a cost of \$1,200.00 The grounds were cleared, fenced and fireguard cultivated.

The contract to build the school was given to the Alberta Supply Co. for \$1,032.00. This was to include the schoolhouse, two outhouses, a barn for eight horses and fuel shed. Because the schoolhouse was not built exactly to plans, a refund of \$200 was received.

In September 1915, six eager students entered this new school house. They were: Frank Hill, Laura Hill, Grace Stinson, Bill Suddaby, Pearl Suddaby and Lili Withers. Enrollment increased to eleven pupils during the first year. Miss Olive Saltmarsh, the first teacher, received a salary of \$750 per year and



First class at Aplomb School, 1915, teacher Olive Saltmarsh. (L. to r.) — Frank Hill, Lilly Withers, Laura Hill, Pearl Suddaby, Grace Stinson, Bill Suddaby.



Aplomb School 1920-21. Back row (l. to r.) — F. Tuck, Bill Suddaby, P. Suddaby, Zabra Alsberg, Lilly Withers, Boyd Tuck. Front row (l. to r.) — Guy Withers, Maggie Suddaby, Bessie Suddaby, Clifford Alsberg.

\$3.40 per month for janitorial duties. She stayed only one year.

A motion at the December 27, 1915, meeting goes like this: "Moved by W.W. that the trustees split the firewood and pack the same in the fuel shed and only then adjourn."

The former editor of the Vegreville Observer, A. L. Horton, printed the letterheads for the School District.

Frank Evans, a trustee, was sent to an Alberta School Trustee Association Convention in Calgary in 1921 and the following year another delegate, Horace S. Tuck was sent.

Things were running smoothly except that the bachelors in the area kept marrying the school teachers, necessitating the hiring of new teachers every

Minutes of a meeting of the board held in the schoolhouse on Sat. Jan 12th 1918.

All the members of the board being present Frank Evans made the declaration of office as per ordinance.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and on motion confirmed.

On the motion of Frank Evans, W. W. Withers was appointed Chairman for the current year.

Percy Rodwell was retained as sec. treas at a salary of \$75⁰⁰ per annum on the motion of Frank Evans.

The sec was instructed to write E. H. Moyer & Co. re the heater, and use the strongest language his vocabulary contains, in the condemnation of their so called "Clean air system of Heating & ventilation"

The meeting now adjourned to meet again at the call of the sec.

W. W. Withers
Percy Rodwell.

one or two years. Miss Amy Gimby taught one year and married a local farmer, Howard Suddaby. Amy did return to teach after her children were away from home in 1947 and taught till the school closed in 1956.

Miss Cora E. Langel stayed for two years from 1917-1919 drawing a salary of \$750.00 per year and \$950 per year.

Miss Steel taught for one year.

There was a Spanish Influenza epidemic in the area in November and December of 1918. The school closed for this period of time.

The fifth teacher, Miss E. J. Stewart, also taught one year and settled to farmlife with a district farmer, Ernest Suddaby. Next came Miss Margaret Gillis and she taught one year, despite the fact that she drew the largest salary thus far of \$1200 per year. Greta Patterson taught next year also for a salary of \$1200.

In 1923 Miss Emma Knight was hired at a salary of \$1050 and taught for the fall term. She married a local farmer, Horace S. Tuck, and settled down to domestic duties. She returned to teach at Aplomb School in 1936, this time teaching for 3 years.

Forty-six applications were received to complete the year 1923-24 and Miss Audrey Hamilton was selected. She taught six months.

Problems were mounting by 1924. Enrollment had increased to forty-six students and one was in grade eleven. After many problems. Bill Suddaby was lucky enough to get his grade eleven at school.

Miss Dorothy Coe was hired for \$1000 per year and stayed two years. This was also when Departmental Examinations were introduced into the school systems and Miss Black, the Vegreville Health Unit Nurse, arrived to check the students. Miss Black became a very familiar figure at the school for many years to come.

Lloyd Tuck carried a bucket of water to school everyday for \$2 a month.

Janitor services were provided by many: Joe Tuck, Pearl Suddaby, Floyd Tuck, Boyd Tuck, Margaret Suddaby and Bessie Suddaby for \$80 a year. Many others helped out as the years went by.

The first secretary-treasurer was Frank Hill. In 1914 Percy Rodwell took the job and held this position till 1952. His dedication to his work and community was greatly appreciated by the ratepayers. His annual salary was \$75 per year.

Miss Violet McAfee taught for one year, commencing her duties in September 1928. The first teacher to stay for four years was Miss Olive Gilpin. Her salary was \$1000 per year and \$50 per year for each grade taught over the eighth grade. She married a farmer, Mr. Hugh Thompson, from Mannville and moved to that area. The Board commended her on

the efficient manner in which she had conducted the school.

The secretary-treasurer's duties were fewer when the municipality started to collect taxes in 1931.

Miss Goldie Dorwood was hired in 1933 at a salary of \$650 per year. This is the lowest salary ever paid to a teacher in Aplomb. Depression years were being felt everywhere.

Tuition fees were paid in 1935 for two students, Wm. Cruickshank and L. Holt, who wished to take High School Correspondence Courses.

Plans were being made to add a room to the present schoolhouse. In August 1935 R. H. Myers and Sons got the contract for \$1450.

In 1935 a practice-teacher was invited to come to teach at the Aplomb school.

It cost \$100 per year to hire someone to supply the school with drinking water; therefore in 1935 a well was drilled.

The first man teacher, Mr. Walter Dinwoodie, was hired in 1934 at a salary of \$840. He resigned his position in April 1936 to be Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District of Patricia. Mr. Louis O. Burger was hired to complete the year.

The student load in 1936 was too great for one teacher, so a second teacher, Mrs. H. Tuck was hired. Plans to build onto the schoolhouse were postponed till 1937. A temporary classroom was set up by the board at the Tuck residence for \$20 a month. Mr. Louis Burer was the principal teaching the senior grades at the Tuck residence.

A minimum wage for teachers was set and Mrs. H. Tuck's salary was raised to \$840.

The additional room to the classroom was to be completed by 1938.

Control of the school system was slowly taken over by the Vegreville School division by 1937.

Miss Josephine Mitchell taught the senior grades in 1937-38 and Mr. Frank Page taught them in 1938-39. Both taught only one school year. Mrs. H. Tuck also resigned in 1939.

The additional room was already in use and two outstanding teachers, Mr. Charles DeTro and Miss Jean Willan, were hired in 1939. Not only were their classroom achievements outstanding but the social life of the community was enriched. The Christmas concerts were excellent because of their music, dancing and drama expertise.

Mr. DeTro took students to competitions and developed in the students a desire to reach out for quality and success. His background in sports helped built enthusiasm in the athletes and the Aplomb Happy Gang softball team won the Provincial finals.

His first concern was the welfare of the students. For the first time students were served hot chocolate

at noon hour. Each student was treated as an individual and encouraged to reach new heights in his latent abilities. He was dedicated to his work.

After two years Mr. DeTro moved on to greater challenges — a great loss to the community but still remembered by many students and parents for his keen mind and long list of achievements.

Miss Willan stayed on the third year and Mr. Baine was hired to teach the senior grades. They both left at the end of the school year in June 1942.

Two teachers, but both left at the end of one year, were then hired, Mr. Dushinski and Miss Jean Gibson.

The year 1943-44 was a prize year. Six teachers were hired in those ten months. They were: Miss M. Sterra, Miss Jean Kruger, Miss Phyllis Campbell, Miss Annabelle Ashmore, Miss Micheluk and Miss Marie Budnik. What a year!

Miss Budnik stayed on for three years teaching the elementary grades. Mr. Dinwoodie returned for one year, and then Mr. Wm. Kutt was hired and stayed for six years. Mr. Wm. Gegoick taught for one year and Mr. Dennis Barber taught from 1952-55 when the closing of the school was approaching.

For a short time the school was used as a community centre. It was renovated so as to be convenient for dances, shows, meetings, elections, parties, etc. As the years passed interest waned, population in the community decreased, there being less and less demand for the building. Fewer functions and the deterioration of the building led the hall board to consider demolition.

A grand reunion was planned to commemorate

the last milestone of the Aplomb history. Several community-minded individuals planned the "Centennial Plus One" Grand Reunion for July 13, 1968. They were: Floyd Tuck, Marjorie Tuck, Guy Withers, Bill Suddaby, Amy Suddaby, Victor Yaremciio, Mabel Yaremciio, Wm Cruickshank, Foster Suddaby and Norman Cruickshank. The whole community assisted in the final preparations.

The program was very skilfully chaired by Mr. DeTro and many honored guests were present: Right. Hon. Grant MacEwan; M.L.A. Alex Gordey; M.P. Major Frank Fane; a majority of the former teachers and students.

The crowd was greater than anticipated and some 500 guests signed the book. The pot luck dinner was enjoyed by everyone, especially Grant MacEwan who got his fill of holupchi.

A dance at the Lavoy Community Hall that evening drew a fine end to a very memorable era.

The school building and two acres of land were sold to Trifon Ruptash the following year. The building has since been dismantled and the school grounds cultivated, and after half a century of bustle and activities only solitude remains.

Aplomb School — Teachers

1915-1916 — Miss Olive Saltmarsh; Mrs. O. Wyatt, Gerard Road, Barnes, London S.W. 13, England.

1916-1917 — Miss Amy Gimby; Mrs. Howard Suddaby, Lavoy, Alberta.

1917-1919 — Miss Cora E. Langel.

1919-1920 — Miss Mae Steel; Mrs. C. Wager, 12046-54 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

1920-1921 — Miss E. J. Stewart; Mrs. Ernest Suddaby, Box 147, Donalda, Alberta.

1921-1922 — Miss Margaret Gilles.

1922-23 — Miss Greta Patterson; Mrs. G. Davis, Vegreville, Alberta.

1923-December 31st., 1924 Miss Emma Knight; Mrs. H. Tuck, Campbell River, British Columbia.

January, 1925-June, 1925 Miss Audrey Hamilton; Mrs. Cooper.

1925-1926 — Miss Margaret McLaggan; 10703-79 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

1926-1928 — Miss Dorothy Coe; Mrs. Bob Holden, 14 Westview Drive, Calgary, Alberta.

1928-1929 — Miss Violet McAfee; Mrs. S. W. Hubbard, 11107-126 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

1929-1933 — Miss Olive Gilpin; Mrs. Hugh Thompson, Mannville, Alberta.

1933-1934 — Miss Goldie Dorwood; Mrs. Garnet Loftus, 10904-75 Street, Edmonton.

1934-March 31st, 1936 Mr. Walter Dinwoodie.

April, 1936-June, 1937 Mr. Louis Burger; 10428-159 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.



Miss Olive Saltmarsh, first teacher at Aplomb School, 1915.

1936-1937 Mrs. H. Tuck.

1937-1938 — Mrs. H. Tuck.

Miss Josephine Mitchell; Mrs. Lowell Schoenfeld, 450 Sierra Lane, State College, P.A. 16801.

1938-1939 — Mrs. H. Tuck.

Mr. Frank Page; 8444-117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

1939-1941 — Mr. Charles DeTro; 9935-83 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

Miss Jean Willan; Mrs. Wm. Armstrong, Box 568 Mission City, British Columbia.

1941-1942 — Miss Jean Willan.

Mr. A. Baine.

1942-1943 — Mr. Dushinski; Willingdon, Alberta. Miss Jean Gibson; Mrs. A. C. Fisher, 9803-101 Street, Ft. Saskatchewan, Alberta.

1943-1944 — Miss Marie Sterra; Mrs. Fred Janson, 422 Newdale Court. N. Vancouver, British Columbia.

Miss Jean Kruger; Mrs. P. Guillet, 11127-82 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

Miss Phyllis Campbell; 469-5710 Sub P. O. 24 Edmonton, Alberta.

Miss Annabelle Ashmore; Mrs. Robert Bath, 4215, Walting St., S. Burnaby, British Columbia.

Miss Micheluk.

Miss Marie Budnik; Mrs. R. L. Toleman, Edmonton, Alberta.

1944-1945 — Mr. Walter Dinwoodie.

Miss Marie Budnik.

1945-1947 — Mr. Wm. Kutt; 12916-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

Miss Marie Budnik.

1947-1951 — Mr. Wm. Kutt.

Mrs. Howard Suddaby.

1951-1952 — Mr. Wm. Gegolick; 11611-112 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

Mrs. H. Suddaby.

1952-1955 — Mr. Dennis Barber; 9522-157 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

1955-1956 — Mrs. H. Suddaby.

Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065

— November 25, 1913 the Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 7, 8, 17-20, 30, 31, the west half and south-east quarter of Section 29, and the half of Section 32, in Township 50, Range 13; and Sections 11-14, 23-26, 35 and 36, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was Leo Bonnes, of Lavoy, Alberta.

— January 26, 1914 the sum of twelve hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing school site, building and equipping school house.

— Treasurer at the time was Roy L. Shotts of Bruce, Alberta.

— March 23, 1927 the following lands were added: Section 6, in Township 50, Range 13; Section 1, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— August 29, 1931 the following lands were withdrawn: North half of Section 35, in Township 50, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— November 1, 1937 the Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.

— May 16, 1952 the sale of site and buildings in the Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065 was given approval.

— December 13, 1954 the following lands were transferred from Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065 to the Woodside School District No. 1633: Sections 1, 11 and 12 in Township 50, Range 14; Section 6 and 7, in Township 50, Range 13; all West of the Fourth Meridian.

— March 30, 1955 the following lands were transferred from the Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065 to the Rosegarland School District No. 2009: Section 8, in Township 50, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— September 15, 1964 the Pleasant Ridge School District No. 3065 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below by B. Eaton)

In 1926 when I came to Canada my teacher was Mollie Brown of Edmonton. After that it was Eva Dordward of Innisfree, Joyce O'Dell of Lavoy, then Lena Bell Jeffrey of Vegreville and John Mitchell whose parents had the lumberyard in Lavoy. Jim Fahy was the school secretary as long as I can remember. The families that went to school were: Lenochs — 4, Walkers — 3, McKinneys — 3, Page — 1, Quasts — 4, Dalys — 2, Iversons — 3, Jacobsen — 1.

The highlight of the school year was the Christmas concert. Everyone took part. Santa came and every child got a bag full of goodies. Dances were held every second Friday; a fiddle and a guitar was the music but we enjoyed it. Jim Fahy was always the M.C. and made sure everyone danced, young and old.

Ridgepark School District No. 3116 (SW 3-52-14)

Excerpts from the Minute Book; copied verbatim, by Betty (Brinton) Hantiuk.

The first meeting of the board of trustees of Ridgepark school district No. 3116 of the Province of

April 8th 1914

The first Meeting of The Board of Trustees of The Ridgepark School District No 3116 of The Province of Alta. was held at B.R. James residence N.E. Sec. 34-57-14/4 at 2 P.M. on April 8th 1914

On Motion of O.F. Johnson
seconded by B.R. James C.W. Binton
was elected Chairman

James-Johnson
That the salary of The Sec-Treas
be \$75.00 for balance of year payable
in Three equal payments

Carried

James
That O.F. Johnson be appointed
Sec-Treas for the year 1914

Carried

James-Johnson
That sec. purchase ~~purchase~~
are press seal for the school district
price \$3.50

Carried

Johnson-James
That if the agreement of This board
the nearest to the Centre of atur S. 161
suitable school site May be
described as follows: Commencing at
a point 350 ft. E. from the S.W. Corner
of the S.E. 1/4 Sec. 3. T. 52 R. 14 N. 4 M. Thence
Northerly 250 ft Thence Easterly 348 ft Thence
thence Southerly 250 ft. To the Southern

Alberta was held at B. R. James' residence NE Sec. 34-51-14-4 at 2 p.m. on April, 1914. On motion of O. F. Johnson seconded by B. R. James C. W. Brinton (i.e. Caleb. Ed.) was elected Chairman. That O. F. Johnson be appointed sec.-treas. for the year 1914. Carried.

May 16, 1914. Johnson-James. That a school-house be built the dimensions to be 24 x 30 ft. with brick foundation plans of such a building to be procured as soon as possible and that tenders for the erection of school house be called for in the Observer. Carried.

July 18, 1914. Johnson-James. That the rate of taxation for the current year be 5½ cts. per acre. Carried.

July 25, 1914. That Clements Ltd. be paid \$13.50 for grass seed. Carried.

August 29, 1914. That Miss Arthur's application for the position of Teacher be accepted and that agreement be drawn up school to open Sept. 14th and terminate Dec. 23. Salary \$60.00 per month. Carried. Johnson-James. That G. T. James be employed as caretaker at a salary of 5.00 per month.

Oct. 5, 1914. That S. F. Coombs be paid Ball. of contract price \$170.00.

July 16, 1915. That Miss Arthur's resignation be excepted. That the following bills be paid if found correct J. J. Stanton 3.60 E. N. Moyer 47.80 Chas. Gordon 2.93 Chas. McLean 10.50 O. F. Johnson 34.70 That a stable be built on schoolsite and also wood box 14 ft. x 24 ft.

Oct. 29, 1915. C. R. Morton for paint for stable 4.65 Lee Ashton for building stable and painting same 25.00

Jan. 11, 1916. Annual Meeting. Nominations for trustee: Mr. Bonisteel and Mr. Ferguson. (latter elected)

Dec. 5, 1916. That Mrs. Churchill be reingaged as teacher of our school for another term ending June 30th at \$750.00 per year.



Ridgepark S.D. #3116, 1919.

July 16, 1917. That Miss R. V. Balaam be reingaged as teacher . . .

July 27, 1918. That some steps be taken to beautify school grounds in line of tree planting as pointed out by school inspector in his report.

Oct. 30, 1918. Candidates for trustees were Jas. Killoran, M. M. Dunham and A. Reimer. That taxes paid by Pte. Vern Umphrey on S½ SE 10-52-14-4 be refunded to him for the years 1916-1917 and 1918 as he has during that time been in his Majesties service. That 5 cords of wood be secured for the school at \$5.50 per cord.

Jan. 10, 1919. Annual Meeting. That Alex Reimer be sec.treas. for the year 1919 at the same salary \$75.00 per year.

Dec. 17, 1919. That Miss Ada C. Moore be rehired for six months at the rate of 900 per annum.

Oct. 26, 1922. The meeting was called by J. C. Butchart inspector of schools and he had an interview of the SD financial conditions and instructed the board to collect sufficient funds to cover the Debenture coupon which was past due.

Jan. 13, 1923. Annual Meeting. Moved by B. J. Hawkins seconded by Vern Umphrey that George Dean be candidate for trustee. (elected)

Jan. 12, 1924. Annual Meeting. Chas. W. Brinton was then declared elected.

July 28th, 1924. Moved by Dean Reimer that Miss Hope Jewell's application be accepted . . . that Miss Ora Moore's be the second application to be accepted . . .

Jan. 10, 1925. Annual Meeting. Moved by S. T. James B. R. James that the chairman urge Miss Bowen to give more of her attention to grade 8. Carried.

July 17th, 1925. That the application in favor of Miss Lilian Goodwin be accepted carried



Ridge Park School, 1920. Miss Ada Moore, teacher. Some of the families represented — Hoyteniuk, Killoran, Hughes, Landry, Dean, James, Scott, McCarty and Smith.

December 7, 1925. That Chas. Brinton be reminded that he has not fixed the gate . . .

January 9th, 1926. Annual Meeting. J. B. Ferguson declared elected.

Nov. 18th, 1926. That we get Mr. Eickmeyer to buy and install a good new lock on school door. That the school children be inoculated if parnas are willing.

January 8th, 1927. Annual Meeting. That the board call for tenders to put a full basement under schoolhouse and install a two pipe furnace but the total costs not to exceed \$1200.

Aug. 5th, 1927. That Miss Mary Bowmens applications be the first choice. Miss Hazel Coams second choice. That R. Riennie be paid \$10.00 for calsomineing school. That we have Mr. Spies put on eavetrough.

Aug. 6th, 1928. That Mrs. A. A. Harkness be expected as teacher for the coming term at \$1050 per year.

July 14, 1930. That we go at once and see Mrs. Harold Kennedy this was done and agreed by the board that Mrs. Kennedy be engaged at Eleven Hundred dollars.

June 22, 1932. That Mrs. Kennedy be reingaged if she will accept \$900 salary.

July 13, 1932. That Mary Olineck be given the caretaking for three months.

June 13, 1934. That the board accept Miss Dorothy Harkness's application as teacher for the coming term at a salary of \$840.00. That Mrs. Brandle do the cleaning of the school . . . for \$2.00

April 25, 1951. A special meeting of the rate payers was held with the Divisional Trustee L. Cole in attendance. The only motion in the course of this meeting was one made by John Maciborski that Ridge Park school request the Vegreville School Division to put a van on this route. Carried.

We are indebted to the last Secretary, Mr. Harold James, for preserving the minute book and turning it over intact to the Historical Society. More history of Ridgemark school will be found in family stories in this publication.

Ideal School District No. 3607

— February 8, 1918 the Ideal School District No. 3607 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 32-36, in Township 50, Range 15; Section 6, 7 and 18 in Township 51, Range 14; and Sections 1-4 and 9-16, in Township 51, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was E. A. Read of Vegreville, Alberta.

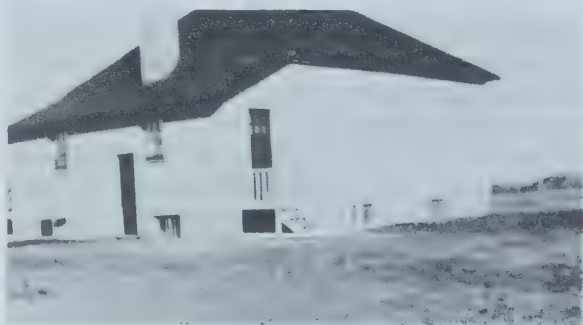
— May 18, 1922 the following lands were with-



Ideal School Children, 1929.



Ideal School, 1930. Some of the children: Peter Giebelhaus, Elizabeth Albrecht, Philip Albrecht, Walter Romaniuk, Ken Selph, Evelyn Drozdowich, Nick Rurka, Dan Rurka, Wm. A. Giebelhaus, Alec Albrecht, Wm. Albrecht, Marshall Baydala, Mike Bartman, Minnie and Jeanny Bartman.



Ideal School, 10 miles south of Vegreville on Holden Road, about 1935.

drawn: North-east quarter of Section 18, in Township 51, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— July 30, 1929 the following lands were withdrawn: North-west quarter of Section 9, and the north half and south-west quarter of Section 16, in Township 51, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— July 17, 1930 the sum of fifteen hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building a cloak room, excavating full-sized basement, moving chimney and furnace to different positions and stuccoing walls.

— Treasurer at the time was S. Drozdowich, of Vegreville, Alberta.

— November 1, 1937 the Ideal School district No. 3607 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.

— October 20, 1953 the sale of site and buildings of the Ideal School District No. 3607 was given approval.

— December 9, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Ideal School District No. 3607 to the Adams School District: Section 32-36, in Township 50, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— September 15, 1964 the Ideal School District No. 3607 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below by Philip J. Albrecht)

Built in 1919.

Mr. Thompson had a carload of lumber shipped in from B.C. for his home and for the school.

Some of the early teachers were:

Miss McDonald

Miss Murray

Miss Stewart

Mr. Bodnar

Mr. Marchand

Miss I. Stronach

Mr. A. Kravetz

Families attending were Bartman, Rurka, Romaniuk, Selph, Drozdowich.

Trustees were: R. Kay, Tom Selph and Steve Drozdowich.

The school was closed in 1951 and the children were bused to Old Vegreville School and in 1954 they were bused to Vegreville.

The school was dismantled in 1954 by Walter Romaniuk and some of the lumber was used to build their home.

(Poem submitted by Katherine (Baydala) Rozak)

TUNE: "Carry Me Back to Old Virginy".

Carry me back to Old Ideal

That's where the Giengers and Drozdowiches live

That's where Dave Hyde warbles sweet every evening

That's where the best of the best people live.

That's where we labor so hard for our living,

Day after day in the fields of yellow wheat,

No place on earth do I love more sincerely,

Than Old Ideal, the place that can't be beat.

Carry me back to Old Ideal

That's where the Rurkas and Selphs and Brandles are

That's where Bill Wyllie croons sweet tunes on the bagpipes

That's where the Giebelhauses live both near and far

That's where we labor so hard at our lessons
Day after day in that dear old stucco school
No place on earth do I love more sincerely
Than Old Ideal where all keep the Golden Rule.

This song was made up by Isabel Stronach, now Mrs. Bob Wyllie, for a Christmas concert when she was teaching at Ideal School from 1934 to 1938.

The school was ten miles south on the Vegreville- Holden road. It was sold to a farmer and demolished. The barn still stands on the two acres of land originally bought from Ed Sandercock.

Victory School District No. 3708

— August 10, 1918 the Victory School District No. 3708 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 1, 12 and 13, and the south half of Section 24, in Township 51, Range 14; Sections 5-9 and 16-21 and the west half and north-east quarter of Section 4, in Township 51, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— Senior Trustee at the time was Mr. Morris of Lavoy Alberta.

— April 7, 1921 the sum of two thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing and fencing site, erecting and furnishing teacher's residence of frame construction.

— Treasurer at the time was J. H. Blackburn of Lavoy, Alberta.

— January 27, 1933 the following lands were added: South-east quarter of Section 14, in Township 51, Range 14; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— November 1, 1937 the Victory School District No. 3708 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.

— October 20, 1953 the sale of site and building of the Victory School District No. 3708 was given approval.

— January 13, 1961 the following lands were transferred from the Avon School District to the Victory School District: Section 10, 13 and 22 West halves of Section 11, 14 and 23, in Township 51, Range 13; West of the Fourth Meridian.

— September 15, 1964 the Victory School District No. 3708 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

History of Dubuc School District No. 4116 contributed by Jos. P. Dubuc

In the year 1921, the area south of Vegreville, later known as Dubuc School District, comprised the following residents: Evariste Dubuc, Henri Dubuc, Hormidas Dubuc, Eugene Lemay, Louis Bourget, Octave Balcaen, Napoleon Barrie, Jim Bowman, John Wasyleski, Albert Hornby, Edward Pagee, J. B. Tetreau, Fred Martiniuk, Bill Feidler, and Emil Bel-



Now demolished Dubuc School built in 1926.

isle. Amongst this group there were some thirty-five children of school age, some of whom were placed in boarding school or with relatives in order to get some education. Some parents could not afford this, so their youngsters went without instructions of any kind. Under these circumstances, some parents petitioned the Department of Education to allow them to form a school district. With the help of the current inspector, Carl Butchard, this was granted. Property and farms from already-existing districts were annexed or encroached upon (Old Vegreville, Imperial and Ridgemark) to form the new district, somewhat to the disapproval of the other districts who feared taxes might rise as a result.

Nevertheless, a meeting of ratepayers was held, and a representative Board elected, comprising Henri Dubuc, Evariste Dubuc, and Octave Balcaen. Funds were borrowed through debentures, and in 1923, a school was built under the foremanship of Dick Rennie, with free labour supplied by the local ratepayers. Due to the prevalence of Dubucs in the district, it was agreed that their name should be adopted for the school. Therefore the "Dubuc School District No. 4116" was duly registered.

School first opened in the fall of 1923 with Mrs. Claire Bourget (nee Claire Lafleur) as the first teacher. Other teachers in subsequent years included: Miss Mae Bedard, Miss Mary McDevitt, Miss Ruth



Dubuc School built about 1926, dismantled about 1955.

Eckenfelder, Miss Florence Belisle (who later joined the order of Daughters of Providence), Miss Germaine Marchand, Miss Lucille L'Heureux (now Mrs. Joe Dubuc, teacher at Peter Svarich school), Miss Cecile Rocque and Theodore Tetreau. Mr. Tetreau, later a Superintendent of Catholic Schools for East Central Alberta, was the last teacher in the Dubuc School in the 1941-42 term. Consolidation was beginning. Vegreville School Division had been formed and many districts were swallowed into this centralized unit, including Dubuc school district. Raymond Tetreau was awarded the initial contract to bus children into the town schools.

Following its closure, Dubuc school was used as a community centre until about 1956; then it was sold to Lacusta brothers Nick and Dmetro, who took it apart for construction material. Thus ended the relatively brief life of Dubuc school, but memories linger of lessons learned there, and of lively social functions, for Dubuc school in the 20's until the 40's was the scene of great concerts, musicales (featuring mainly the talented Dubuc family), and dances where rural and town folk often tripped the light fantastic until dawn.

The name plate originally installed on the front of the school is in the care of and retained by Rene Dubuc. Inspector Theodore Tetreau obtained and kept the old pot-bellied stove that heated the school during its existence, while Mrs. Joe Dubuc has in her possession the old original teacher's desk which supplied articles of inestimable value as keepsakes.

- May 18, 1922 the Dubuc School District No. 4116 was established comprising of the following lands: Section 19, 20, 29-32, north-west quarter of Section 27, north-east quarter of Section 18, west halves of Sections 21, 18, south-west quarter of Section 33, in Township 51, Range 14; Sections 5 and 6 in Township 52, Range 14; Sections 36, east half of Section 24, east half and north-west quarter of Section 25, in Township 51, Range 15; east half of Section 1 in Township 52, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- Senior Trustee at the time was H. M. Dubuc of Vegreville, Alberta.
- August 18, 1922 the sum of three thousand dollars was borrowed on the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing three acres of land and fencing same, building and furnishing school house, building a stable.
- Treasurer at the time was D. Balcaen, of Vegreville, Alberta.
- February 22, 1934 the following lands were withdrawn: North-west quarter of Section 36, in Township 51, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.

- November 1, 1937 the Dubuc School District No. 4116 was included in Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- May 8, 1958 the sale of the school building in the Dubuc School District No. 4116 was given approval.
- May 22, 1958 the sale of site of the Dubuc School District No. 4116 was approved.
- September 15, 1964 the Dubuc School District No. 4116 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 2.

Inland School District No. 4428

- July 30, 1929 the Inland School District No. 4428 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 17-21, north half of Section 8, north-west quarter of Section 9, north half and south-west quarter of Section 16, south halves of Section 28 and 30, and the south half and north-east quarter of Section 29, in Township 51, Range 15; Section 13, 24, north-east quarter of Section 23, and the south half of section 25, in Township 51, Range 16; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- Senior Trustee at the time was W. G. Cole of Inland, Alberta.
- October 1, 1929 the sum of five thousand dollars was borrowed on the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing school site, erecting a modern school house, with full basement, furnace and chemical toilets, purchasing a full line of equipment, and erecting a barn.
- Treasurer at the time was P. D. Wilde of Inland, Alberta.
- December 9, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Myroslaw School District No. 2106 to the Inland School District No. 4428: Section 14, in Township 51, Range 16; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- December 9, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Inland School District No. 4428 to the Myroslaw School District No. 2106: North half of Section 8, in Township 51, Range 15; West of the Fourth Meridian.
- December 30, 1954 the Inland School District No. 4428 was re-subdivided into Subdivision No. 2 of the Vegreville School Division No. 19.
- October 26, 1955 the sale of the site and buildings of the Inland School District No. 4428 was given approval.
- September 15, 1964 the Inland School District No. 4428 was incorporated into the County of Minburn No. 27.

(Below by Minnie Albrecht)

Inland was a small village with three elevators, a post office and grocery store.

In 1930 a school was built. The first teacher was Marvel Cole and some others were Mr. M. Saranchuk and Miss E. Ewasiuk. There were seventeen children from grades one to eight. These children were from the Zuk, G. Johnson, Jonas and Spivak families.

Trustees were Jim Goshko, Jim Storoschuk and Mike Zuk. The last teacher was Nick Zakordonski in 1949. In 1950 the children were bused to Old Vegreville school and in 1951 the Inland and west children were bused to Vegreville.

The school is still standing but is no longer used for social functions.

R. R. Cairns School by Dorothy Cairns

It is very fortunate that Marion and Ross Cairns arrived in Vegreville with a young son who required special education. Ross organized a meeting the spring of 1959 with only a few parents and Dr. Kuzyk present. This got the project underway and, on making inquiries under the school act, they found to receive grants they must have a proper classroom and a qualified teacher.

Luckily the Beaver Bennett Scout Hut was still standing and a basement classroom was available and unused, except for storage, by the Scouts. This building was not torn down when the Elementary School was demolished. Finding a qualified teacher who would work for \$150 to \$180 a month was another problem, but was soon settled when they found Dorothy Cairns, who was at that time employed at Raydon Motors (for a good deal more money!) Having been a Primary Teacher in B.C., thus being qualified, Mrs. Cairns also understood this great need.



Dr. R. Cairns' School teachers and pupils, 1961.

It was with dismay that she started cleaning up that dark little basement room, but soon had it painted and decorated with the help of one of the parents. School started the fall of 1960.

Mrs. Cairns also found she was one of the Directors of the Board as there were so few parents and interested people; but, other than a teacher's report, she had no voice in the business of the Board. The local School Board gave very little support, but the Superintendent at that time, Mr. Henry Kolesar, understood the school's problem and assisted the teacher with various curriculums (mostly from Texas) for the trainables. There were no supplies for special education so orders were sent to New York for speech therapy supplies and to Holland for special education toys and crafts. Dr. Ross Cairns and the teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Cairns, were guest speakers at the various service clubs and this was the only voice they had in informing the public about the great need and the expense of special education.

Fortunately for this school, the Winnifred Stewart School in Edmonton and the Christine Meikle School in Calgary were well publicized and the Dr. Cairn's School capitalized on this publicity. Winnie Stewart, as an advisor of long years of experience, came to Vegreville on several occasions to assist the Board and also to very capably assist the teacher in setting up her curriculum.

With very little in the way of equipment, school opened the fall of 1960 with an enrolment of six. Each year the students increased until they were bursting the walls of the small one room! Mrs. Hughes assisted Mrs. Cairns the second year of school, but was taken ill with cancer and passed away. At this time, parents all across Canada were beginning to express their need for schools with special education for the retarded and grants were made available.

Mr. Jack Dekker and his wife, Trudy, made a hard-working team on the Board and a new school

was soon built on the site of the old elementary school in 1963.

Miss Verda Dean became the assistant for Mrs. Cairns prior to moving to the new school. She worked hard and long for the benefit of the children.

How thrilled everyone was with the new one-roomed school! It looked so bright and roomy. But soon it was filled to capacity with over 20 pupils, all with different handicaps requiring special, individual training program.

Mrs. Cairns remained with the school for over ten years, working constantly on new and better programs, visiting schools from Winnipeg to Vancouver, taking advantage of all special courses offered at the University of Alberta, Physical Education by Professor Pat Austin at summer school, Psychology by Professor Harper, a special course by Zimmerman for Perceptual Difficulties, speech education through tapes and recordings from New York and the University of Alberta, besides attending many lectures and workshops offered in Special Education in Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Vancouver.

Mrs. Cairns was a pioneer teacher in the field in those years, and had to seek far and wide for help in setting up a suitable curriculum. She often travelled to surrounding towns to encourage and help parents in arranging for their child to attend school, a very heartbreaking decision as the child had to board away from home in most cases. Then too, the boarding problems became the teacher's problems on many occasions and often children who weren't picked up for the weekend ended up in the teacher's home.

A Teachers' Association for teachers of the mentally handicapped was formed in Alberta and Mrs. Cairns became one of the Presidents in those early years. She was presented with a pin when she retired from teaching.

By the late 1960's, and early 1970's, the Dekkers and the Board were kept busy keeping the public informed and still aware of our great need. More children meant more grants and when Mrs. Cairns retired she was receiving \$250.00 per month and that summer it was decided the staff would be paid during summer and Christmas holidays.

By now Miss Dean was teaching a group of the youngest children full-time. Mrs. Mercier was teaching crafts with assistance and guidance from Mrs. Edmunds who had been a volunteer in the school since 1963 and continued to be until she moved away.

Mrs. Edmunds very capably taught the children to make crafts that could be raffled or sold to supplement the craft fund which was mainly supplied by the staff. The \$25 per month given to the teachers to cover all the Home Economic supplies, bathroom



Dr. R. Cairns School instruction time, 1961.

supplies, and craft supplies barely met one requirement, let alone all the demands of special education!

The School was inspected regularly by the Inspector of Special Education. To qualify for a grant all the children had to show signs of progress. Being no exception, our school had students that were sent to the Provincial Training School, which saddened us. But we also had the happiness of a few pupils being promoted to the class for exceptional children in the regular school after several years of training.

The following years brought many changes and the school came under the Department; hired only qualified staff, grew larger, built a residence and formed a workshop for older pupils. It was a dream come true for parents of retarded children and certainly a prayer answered for those who worked so hard and gave their time and love to the children in those early years.



Lavoy teachers — (l. to r.) — G. Cucheran, M. Petruk, L. Zuk, N. Zakordonski and S. Uniat. Photo taken by Principal M. Tomyń, about 1955.



Ukrainian Student Group, Vegreville, about 1917.



Public School built in 1906, added to in 1920. Photo 1952.



Putting on storm windows in the fall. Fairwood school, built in 1927 and later used for a community centre.



Kolomea School — 2-room and teacherage, 1940.

Community Services

C.N. Railroad

Supplied by J. J. Thornton, Public Relations Manager, C.N.R., 23 Floor, C.N. Towers, Edmonton, Alberta. 23 Jan., 1967 for the Vegreville Centennial Committee Reunion, Wednesday, February 1, 1967 at the Kingsway Legion, Edmonton, Alberta.

The "Skunk" which operated through Vegreville enroute to Lloydminster and Edmonton was more properly called an "Oil Electric Car".

There were a number of these cars in the West and they saw service on three lines out of Edmonton: to Athabasca, to Saskatoon and to Lloydminster.



C.N. train pulling out, June 3, 1914, taking Harold Kennedy and others to Sarcee training camp; original station in background.



Original C.N. station, about 1920. At right note the competition: "Vegreville and St. Paul Auto and Horse Stage".

The oil-electric form of propulsion was an invention of Canadian National away back in 1925. At that time it was trying to give a faster service on branch lines where stops were frequent and steam trains had difficulty picking up speed.

Skunks came in two styles. One carried 126 passengers and the other 56. The reason for the variation was they had also to carry baggage, and sometimes express. Those on prairie lines were the 56 passenger kind.

Although they were christened after the animal Kingdom because of their potent exhausts, the oil-



Mrs. T. Thompson with Mr. and Mrs. P. Lister. Mr. Lister was C. N. station agent since 1918. His garden to the east of the station was a beautiful sight. About 1940.

electric car was actually quite famous. When it was introduced 40 years ago it broke three world records. The principal achievement was to cross the continent — Montreal to Vancouver — in less than 72 hours.

In the oil electric car, a four-cylinder engine burning light fuel oil, produced 185 horsepower at 700 revolutions per minute. The engine operated an electric generator. It was electricity and not the diesel combustion power that drove the locomotive.

The machine provided real economy compared with the steam engine of those days. It went 334 miles on \$3.50 worth of fuel oil. The cost for a steam locomotive over the same distance was \$66.

There is little doubt that but for the depression of the thirties there would have been a succession of “Skunks”, each an improvement over its predecessor.

By the end of the thirties, however, the first of the diesel engines had arrived and the fate of the oil-electric was sealed — at least for the time being.

Vegreville and the Telephone

by Tony Cashman, Historian for A.G.T.

Conversation by electricity was brought to Vegreville in the fall of 1907 by an Alberta Government Telephones crew building a long distance line from Edmonton to Lloydminster. AGT was in its first summer of construction, flinging lines from Edmonton to Lloydminster, Wetaskiwin to Daysland, Lacombe to Stettler, Fort Macleod to the Crowsnest, and Vegreville to Brosseau, a burst of building aimed at convincing that unwanted guest, the Bell Telephone Company, that it should leave Alberta and sell its system to the province. The Bell network was a single north-south line running from Edmonton to Cardston with an exchange isolated, off by itself, at Medicine Hat.

The next year Bell took the hint — and \$675,000 — and left, and Vegreville became an important location in a network province-wide and province-owned — which it still is today.

Mind you, AGT was a little late getting to Vegreville, a little later than the minister of telephones, Mr. Cushing, led impatient citizens to expect. The achievement and the mood of 1907 was recorded with characteristic flourish by A. L. Horton, editor of the Observer, in three stories which follow.

Vegreville Observer July 10 p. 2 1907

“Where are Our Telephones?” “It will probably be remembered that in April last when the Hon. Mr. Cushin was in Vegreville, some very pleasing promises were made in regard to prompt installation of a telephone system in the town.”



Government telephone gang and new central office. Dobbins Block — now Legion Building, south across avenue from Cash Foods IGA, 1913.

“It was asserted, somewhat confidently, that the system would be in operation by July 1st. That date has come and gone but to all appearances the town is no nearer having the system than it was in April.”

“The Provincial Dept. of Public Works have undertaken a large contract in handling a huge system of Government telephones. Doubtless, every effort is



Winnie Shaw, Bertha Weldon, Catherine Gould at telephone exchange, 1916.



Vegreville Telephone Building, 1928.



Vegreville Telephone Building, 1928.



Vegreville Telephone Building, 1940.



Vegreville Telephone Exchange, 1937.

being made to rush construction but at the same time it is a mistaken policy to make promises which are not likely to be fulfilled in the time set."

"Just at present, Vegreville would be satisfied if a show of work were made on the local system."

Vegreville Observer Sept. 25, 1907

"The telephone gang is busy installing the town system. The government is forgiven for the delay in having the work done. Present favours are of more interest and value than past delinquencies. It may be noted that the poles are being put on the streets instead of the lanes. The Town Council tried hard to have the government officials place the poles in the lanes but it was not to be. Sooner than lose the chance of having the system installed speedily, the Council bowed gracefully to the inevitable."

Vegreville Observer Oct. 30 Sept. 1907

"The government telephone system is going to be popular with the people. Vegreville has a local exchange already and there are 60 subscribers. That shows how the people are taking to the system. The monopolistic concern would have trouble in boasting of that number of subscribers in a place twice the size." (Note: The monopolistic concern is a sly reference to the Bell Telephone Company).

The AGT crew installed the exchange, to which editor Horton refers with pride, in the Dobbins

Block, now the Royal Canadian Legion hall, at a cost of \$5,545.54. Before the gang moved off in other directions, they had a group picture taken, with the workers in their proper positions — those who dug poles on the ground, linemen on the pole and a cableman sitting on the cable where it entered the building. One member of the gang had a postcard made of the historic picture and it appears with this story.

Dr. C. W. Field was AGT's first agent in charge of the sixty-line exchange and the long-distance connections. Many early agents were either doctors or druggists. In the pioneer community the man with medicine — to prescribe or compound — was the man most-in-demand. It was good for the community, and good for business, to have the central in a drug store or adjacent to a doctor's office.

The agency was a sideline for which the agent made twenty-five percent commission on all business, and out of which he had to pay operators if required.

In 1910, when the first rural party lines were built to the Vegreville exchange, the agent was C. Adams.

In 1916 Catherine Gould was appointed agent and chief operator. Miss Gould soon gave it up to become Mrs. A. L. Horton and was succeeded by Winnie Shaw and Rose Etta Rule.

In 1918 AGT moved the exchange to its own building. It started as a square block of red brick with little architectural charm, but over the years a peaked roof was added with a feature awning above the door.

Then, more space was added to the building, and landscaping too, and the evolution is shown in three photographs taken in 1918, 1927 and 1937.

When the building eventually gave way to progress in recent years, the well-known clinker-brick facing was moved to the facade of the Vegreville Observer.

In 1920 AGT sent a permanent resident manager to Vegreville, and Milt Acheson was a prominent citizen for fourteen years. In 1914 Milt and his staff won the AGT trophy for new business, drumming up 58 town subscribers and 63 on farms. That brought the Vegreville exchange to 254 town phones and 237 on rurals. And the long-distance operators were busy, putting through 100 calls a day, tenth busiest in the AGT system.

That was a peak which the district did not reach again until after the second world war. In the depressed thirties food came before telephones and AGT business declined so much that all rural lines in the province had to be turned over to farmer-owned co-ops. In the Vegreville district no less than fourteen mutual telephone companies came forward to preserve rural service. Their names are now historical, of course. Some thirty-five years later on December 14, 1969, AGT resumed service on buried cable.

But the names won't be forgotten soon. They are East Vegreville, Hairy Hill, Highlow, Imperial, Inland, Leachville, Park Grove, River Park, Royal Park, Vegreville North and Vegreville Northwest.

The mutual companies kept pace with technology in 1955 when automatic dialing was introduced at the Vegreville exchange but new technology was piling up too fast for the electronic seventies and beyond.

Vegreville will be a center of whatever is new. Microwave had a big impact in 1962, as Vegreville was made a switching centre on the heavy-route bypass, connecting Calgary and Peace River. It then became a junction point on the Cold Lake and Fort McMurray microwave routes.

In 1978 Vegreville was made an AGT regional centre with Jim Hatley as regional manager. A case of history repeating itself in a larger dimension.

Telephones and Telegraph in the N.W.T (Now Alberta) 1877-1978

by Gladys Nicholson

Before the telegraph and the telephone, messages had to be sent by a canoe paddler, by a river steamer or by a native runner.

The stagecoach could take a message from Edmonton to Calgary in five days and a man on horseback could do it in two.

The telegraph reached the North West Territories in 1877. On January 3, 1885, the first telephones went into service, connecting the Edmonton Telegraph Office with a store in St. Albert. In July of 1887 the Bell Telephone Company opened the first commercial telephone exchange in Calgary, through a switchboard which connected forty people with telephones.

In 1894 the first long distance line ran from the Mounted Police office in Lethbridge to a hill overlooking the border with the U.S.A. in the days of the rum-runners in the North West Territory.

When the Province of Alberta was formed in 1905, the Telephone Company was transferred to the province and became the Alberta Government Telephone Co. in 1906. The first government of Alberta considered the telephone vital to the life of new communities, also to the life of the farm people. The telephone transformed the quality of life in the rural community as it ended the isolation of the pioneer. Farm neighbours were linked by the "party line", with as many as fifteen or twenty families on one line. All the lines led to the central exchange in the town, where the operators knew everything that was going on, in town and countryside. This was a great help in times of emergency, such as sickness or fire, as help could soon be on the way.

The western cities had automatic dial telephones long before the larger cities of the east. Edmonton was the first city to have dial phones in 1908, then Calgary and Lethbridge in 1909, and Medicine Hat in 1914.

In 1920 Albertans with telephones could call about half the towns in Saskatchewan and a few in the Crowsnest Pass, and in 1925 could call any place in Canada or the U.S.A.

When the depression of 1930 hit the province, the Alberta Government wanted out from operating rural telephones, as many farm families could no longer afford the luxury of the telephone, and most farmers were having the phones disconnected. The government offered the farmers two choices: either take over the lines and operate it themselves or Alberta Government Telephones would remove its wires and poles, leaving no rural telephones. The price to the farmers was five cents per pole and one cent per foot for copper wire. There were 700 Mutual Telephone Companies formed.

A Mutual Telephone Company had to furnish a service to any person resident in its registered area who agreed to pay the cost of installation and the periodic charge for service.

Most companies also desired the prospective subscribers to become shareholders in the Company. The authorized capital of the Rural Mutual Telephone Company was determined on a basis of a minimum of fifteen dollars for each mile of pole line. No one share could be issued to more than one person and no one person could normally be allotted more than one share. A share could be transferred only with the consent of the directors of the Company and only to a person applying for or receiving telephone service from that company. Frequently profits went back to the Company as reduced rates.

All Rural Mutual Companies desired connection with Alberta Government Telephones to obtain such services as long distance through them. When buried cable was scheduled to replace pole and line in a company's area, integration with Alberta Government Telephones took place and the companies dissolved. Upon the dissolution of the company, all debts were paid and the remaining assets liquidated and divided among individual shareholders.

The Rural Mutual Telephone Company Act required that every person who owned a share in the Company become a subscriber for the telephone service of that company within six months of becoming a shareholder. A shareholder failing to become a subscriber within the allocated time was denied the right to attend meetings or become an officer or vote in the company.

Prior to 1957 only roughly thirty-five percent of the farms in Alberta had telephones.

Highlow Mutual Telephone Co.

It was decided that shares of the company be one dollar each and each shareholder to take twenty-one and a half shares each. The charge for each phone will be one dollar per month to be paid three months in advance.

To keep the line in good repair all shareholders will help, as and when called on. In 1937 Jack Rogers was to be paid one dollar a month for secretary work and fifty cents an hour for work on lines, plus five cents a mile for car. In 1948 rates were increased to \$1.25 per year and \$1.50 in 1950.

The officers in 1948 were:

President — Stanley Sanford

Secretary — Jake Wagner

Directors: Oliver Hughes

Chris Schnieder.

Arnold Sanford was trouble man.

By 1953 there were thirteen shareholders. In 1955 rates were \$30.00 per year, and trouble men were Mike Barlott and Walter Malarsky.

In 1960 the slate of officers were:

President — Mike Barlott

Sec. Treas. — Paul Werezuk

Directors: Bill Zacharuk, Oliver Hughes

Stanley Sanford.

In 1962 the slate of officers was increased by two directors, plus a replacement Tom Biglands, Jake Wagner and Bill Osadchuk. Gordon Hughes was added to the list of directors in 1966.

In 1968 the shareholders agreed to have the president and secretary give the A.G.T. the authority to install an underground cable.

In 1971 the lines were dismantled and the company dissolved. At this time Alberta Government Telephones took over.

Park Grove Mutual Telephone Company by William Ziegler

The Park Grove Mutual Telephone Company was formed around 1930. This line started a mile west of Vegreville, and ran straight north from Highway Sixteen for six miles. There was an average of ten members on the line over the years. The first president was Sherman Davis and John Jennings was Secretary-Treasurer. The charter members were — as they lived on the line from the highway: John Molitor, Herbert E. Worth, Stewart Kitto, Sherman Davis, Alfred Langridge, Robert Wilson. Albert Jennings and John Jennings. In 1935 John Nicholson joined and then William Nicholson and Dan Triska.

In 1949 at the June 16 meeting Sherman Davis resigned as president as he was moving out of the district and John Jennings resigned as he was planning on moving to town. George Ferguson was elected president and William Ziegler was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Both held these positions for twenty years, until the underground lines took over.

The company had the lines divided into six: two shareholders had to look after each division, which was two miles in length. Every few years the company put in a mile of new posts, and everyone on the line would turn out to help. The cost would be divided amongst the shareholders. Each member paid \$1.00 per month service charge and their own long distance calls.

There was an emergency ring for the line which members could use by ringing one long ring on the line. This would bring all members on the line and was used in case of fire, accidents and for announcing community affairs. This was missed when the new lines were put in.

Each member had their own ring on the line such as: two long and two short rings or one long and three short rings. The members on the line over the years:

John Molitor

Herbert E. Worth

Stewart Kitto

Sherman Davis

Alfred Langridge

Robert Wilson

Town Hall Vegreville Feb 16th 1935

a meeting of the shareholders of the Highlow Mutual Telephone Co was held this day.
moved by C. Schneider sec by J. Corry that
F. Hughes act as chairman for this meeting
carried

moved by J. Corry sec by A. Riemer that
Jack W. Roger act as Secretary of this
meeting carried.

The following agreed to become shareholders

D. W. Hughes.

J. Corry

F. Hughes.

A. Riemer

C. Hughes.

D. W. Harold Brown.

W. R. McGowan.

M. Yaremco

C. Schneider

moved by W. R. McGowan. sec by J. Corry
that portion of the physical plant known
as Circuit (16), located in Townships 52 & 53,
Ranges 13 & 14, West of the 4th Mer. with one
pair of wires, from S. E. of 28-52-14-4
to Vegreville, plus 9 Rural Wall Telephone
sets, be bought from the Alberta
Government, at the price of one hund-
red & eighty three dollars (\$183) Terms cash
carried.

moved by W. R. McGowan sec by J. Corry
that a meeting be held on March 2nd
to make settlement for same.

J. Corry
Chairman

Jack W. Roger
Secretary

Albert Jennings	Arthur Payne
John Jennings	Mike Radziwon
John Nicholson	Mike Marianych
William Nicholson	William Olinyk
Dan Triska	Mike Schultz
George Ferguson	Vasile Lupu
William Ziegler	Malbon Campbell
Harold Fuller	

The Vegreville North Mutual Telephone Company

by Gladys Nicholson

The Vegreville North Telephone Company was formed around 1930. This line started about one-half mile from Highway 16 and ran straight north for four miles on the Warwick road. The following members were the first to sign up for the telephones: Mark Kitto, Louis Oligny, Harry Payne, James Cadzow, Herbert Davis, Midland Pacific Elevator, Province Elevator Company, Charles Fuller, William Cunningham and William Scritsmier.

In later years, the following people joined or bought previous owners' shares in the line: Frank Schoettler, Harold Fuller, Alberta Wheat Pool (P.E. Co.) Roy Fuller, B. Davis, Arthur McCarty, Stanley Walker, Lorne Cunningham, Wilfred Steinbach, Marshall Triska, and John Spur.

Alberta is the only province in North America that has ever had Mutual Telephone Companies which were owned by the people who serviced them.

Vegreville North-West Mutual Telephone Co.

by Gordon Ziegler

This telephone company was formed on July 24, 1934. The first meeting was held at John Lowe's home on August 1, 1934. Shares were \$1.00 and in 1940 the company raised their shares to \$20.00. When the dial phone came in 1959, the shares were again raised to \$70.00. Alberta Government Telephones put in the underground cable in 1969. When all posts and wire were sold, the company was dissolved in 1971.

At the first meeting John Lowe was elected president. He held that position until January, 1948. Arthur Ziegler was elected president and remained president until the company was dissolved. The first secretary was Mrs. John Lowe and she held that position until 1947. Mrs. Arthur Ziegler was secretary then until 1956. Gordon Ziegler was then elected secretary and remained until the company was dissolved. Henry Ziegler was the only member in the company that was a member when it was incorporated and when it was dissolved.

Shareholders in 1934 were:

George Ziegler	Edwin Cunningham
Henry Ziegler	C. W. Campbell
John Lowe	Tom Wood
John Ziegler	William Wynnchuk
Howard McCleery	Ed Robertson
Robert Dewart	Sinclair Laird
William Salamandick	Stanley Sanford
Ormy Trimble	Mr. Bowen

Shareholders when the company dissolved were:

Mrs. Nick Charuk	Jim Durie
Peter Fedoruk	Albert Wolinski
R. H. Hohn	Kenneth Ferguson
Gail Trimble	Berton Ziegler
Mrs. George Ziegler	Gordon Ziegler
Harry Semotiuk	Henry Ziegler
Albert Gafka	Arthur Ziegler
Leonard Timanson	Walter Wynnchuk
Gordon Brennan	

Article on History of Alberta Power Limited in Vegreville for Vegreville Historical Society, October, 1979

On May 31, 1926, a franchise to provide electrical service to the Town of Vegreville was granted to Ernest W. Bowness.

Five months later Vegreville Utilities Limited was incorporated by Mr. Bowness under the Provincial Companies Act.

Vegreville's small diesel generator was replaced at that time by a coal-fired, hand-stoked steam engine and two generating units producing a total of about 25 kilowatts. This plant served 380 customers.

The fixed assets of the company in those days amounted to \$28,000. Customers paid an average of 25 cents per kilowatt hour (kW.h); a far cry from today's average of about five cents per kW.h.

The company built its first 24-hour service transmission line, extending from Vegreville to Mundare, during the winter of 1927-28. Prior to this, local area residents had electricity only during the evening hours and on Monday mornings — for the weekly wash.

Three years later, another 15 miles of line brought electricity to the village of Andrew.

These lines were the beginning of a network connecting communities to a common source. By then, Vegreville Utilities Limited had become Canadian Utilities Limited and Ernest W. Bowness had become its first general manager.

How The Company Grew

The pattern of growth in the early years was one of obtaining franchises first in areas suitable for central power plants and then building transmission



Canadian Utilities Vegreville office as it looked 25 years ago. A corporate restructuring in 1972 transferred the electric operations of Canadian Utilities to subsidiary company — Alberta Power Limited.



Canadian Utilities line crew "piking in" a pole during the 1940's.

lines from the plants to serve nearby towns and villages.

As the lines from central plants extended further and further, the small, inefficient plants handling local loads were closed down and the generating equipment scrapped, sold or placed on standby for emergencies. Central power plants were rebuilt and their generating capacity enlarged to accommodate expanding loads.

From this plan of acquisition and expansion emerged several widespread systems of transmission lines in Alberta, inter-connecting many communities with a common power source.

As Vegreville's service area began to expand, Lloydminster, Forestburg, Grande Prairie, Drumheller, Hanna and Stettler followed this pattern of growth. These areas were known as the company's "seven original communities."



Canadian Utilities billboard using the Reddy Killowatt character who was discontinued in recent years, 1960.

The War Years

With the outbreak of the Second World War Canadian farmers found their ranks drastically depleted, with thousands of the nation's young men gone to fight.

The farmers began to look to electric power as a replacement for the lost manual labour, but the problem was not easily solved. The utilities could not meet the demand since the war effort required the same type of material the utilities needed to provide the power. Expanding electric service had become a luxury.

But Canadian Utilities did manage to get some equipment. The question became how best to use it.

The company had two choices — it could use the equipment to provide service to individual farms situated close to existing lines, or it could establish experimental areas, provide service to everyone within those areas, and obtain valuable experience in construction techniques, materials, and in determining the costs involved in rural electrification.

Canadian Utilities chose the latter course and the experience gained in those experimental areas — one of which was located just southwest of Vegreville — contributed to the phenomenal expansion of rural electrical service in the post-war years.

The Vegreville Crisis

After the Second World War a tremendous load increase in the Vegreville area created a crisis. Forecasts indicated that the coming winter peak loads might exceed the area's combined available generating capacity.

In July, 1947, Canadian Utilities signed a franchise to serve Vermilion with electricity on condition that a plant be constructed there to serve the whole Vegreville district.

The existing Vermilion plant had a capacity of only 500 kilowatts — not nearly enough to help out with the Vegreville situation.

To compound the problem the existing gas-fired steam plant at Vermilion required a new boiler and other expensive repairs. Vermilion did, however, have an adequate water supply to allow plant expansion.

The "textbook solution" — installing a new steam turbine — was not the answer. It would take at least three years for new turbines to arrive and be made ready for service.

Company employee Roy Nurse provided an interim solution by connecting a 1000-horsepower Rolls-Royce aircraft engine to a 450-kilowatt generator and adapting it to operate on natural gas instead of gasoline.

In the meantime, an exhaustive search of available sources turned up four turbo-generators, boilers and associated equipment from decommissioned destroyer escorts, the H.M.S. CHASE and H.M.S. ESSINGTON. Andy Duncan, an engineer from the Drumheller power plant staff, rushed to San Diego to supervise the dismantling and shipping. The equipment arrived in early fall and the units were modified to suit their intended purpose.

Site preparation in the Vermilion River Valley carried on through the 1947-48 winter, proceeding at a frantic pace during the following summer.

The first 1800-kilowatt unit went into operation on November 7 — two months before the roof of the plant building was completed.

On January 26, 1949, the plant was officially opened and by Christmas of that year all four generators were operational. The generating crisis in the Vegreville district had been resolved.

Continued Growth and a 50 Anniversary

The '50s and the '60s saw phenomenal growth in the use of electrical power. Farmers formed rural co-ops to help pay for construction of transmission lines.

These rural co-ops, known as rural electrification associations (REAs) continue to this day, with farmers owning several thousand miles of power lines throughout Alberta.

In 1972 a corporate restructuring transferred the electric operations of Canadian Utilities to a new subsidiary company, Alberta Power Limited.

In 1977, Vegreville took on increased importance as the company's divisional headquarters for the operating district of Vegreville, Lloydminster and Drumheller. During 1977 Vegreville, along with 21 other communities, renewed its franchise with Alberta Power for another 10 years and on May 11, 1978, the company celebrated the 50th anniversary of its service to that area.

Leisure-Time Activities



Overloaded steer. Eberhardt children (l. to r.) — Laura, Herman, Harry, Wallace, Kenneth, Hans, 1959.



Edward Harter, new barn and hunting dogs. Barn built in 1945.



One-horse cutters at Steve Wynnchuk's. Front (l. to r.) — Walt, Edward (driver). Seated: Elsie holding Wayne Wasyleski and standing on right — Joe E. Hawryluk, 1943.



Red Cross Sale at Hairy Hill, during First World War. Farmers donated pigs, chickens, cattle, horses, vegetables, etc. 1916.



Janet and Isabella MacDonald, 1940.



Amongst others — Ed. Eickmeyer, Father John Garnier, Lemuel Cole, Arthur Beaudette and George Bourget at Experimental Farm, 1962.



July 1 Parade, 1926. Pearl and Ruby Richardson on white ponies.

Organizations

Major Fane Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire

by Irene Shaw

In 1932 the first I.O.D.E. Chapter in Vegreville was formed with 23 Charter Members under the leadership of Mrs. Wm. Hayhurst as Regent. The name was chosen to honor Major J. W. W. Fane who commanded the 3rd C.M.R.'s in World War I and in which several local men had served. His wife accepted the position of Honorary Regent and presented the Chapter with its first flag.

In early years it was best known for its sponsorship of the Public Library which was staffed by volunteers from among the members.

Under its watchword of "Patriotism through Service" it continued to assist in educational projects on the local level as well as in support of Provincial and National Funds. Its larger field of endeavour is well

covered in the following lines written (anonymously) in celebration of the Chapter's 25th Anniversary — with apologies to Longfellow!

Through the Years with Major Fane Chapter
In a broad and fertile valley, by the river called
"Vermilion"

Lies the friendly little city that is known as Vegreville
There a worthy band of women in the early 1930's
Signed the roll and joined the Order, filled with
patriotic zeal.

Nurtured in the proud tradition of the "Land of Hope
and Glory"

British-born or by adoption, they saw duty written
plain

Thus they launched into the future on the sea of high
endeavor

Chose a name well-known and honored; called the
Chapter "Major Fane".



Major Fane and Ada I. Wright Chapters IODE — Christmas Banquet, 1961. Presentation of 25-year pins to Marge Shaw, Vera Turner, Irene Shaw.

Soon we came on troubled waters, swift and dark and
 madly swirling.
 Long we looked for one to guide us safely through to
 calmer thinking
 Came to us from the "Provincial" one with wisdom
 doubly blessed;
 Brought us better understanding, gave us heart to
 carry on.
 Gave us courage, made us conscious of the privilege
 of serving.
 With new light we looked about us; found in Child
 and Family Welfare,
 Greater need than we had dreamed of — Glasses,
 Tonsils, Funds and hampers
 Claimed our efforts in the 30's till the war clouds
 darkened o'er us.
 News of Britain in her peril filled us with grave
 apprehension
 Stiffened our determination to assist in her defenses.
 "National's" appeal for money for the gift of fighter
 aircraft
 Spurred us on to greater effort in the noble cause of
 freedom.
 Victory concerts were sponsored, Spring Fair, Teas
 and Evening Circus
 All our old gold went for melting, stuffed toys sold
 and scrap iron gathered
 Pots and pans and aluminum kettles gathered in from
 many kitchens
 Some of which we had to raffle when we found no
 proper outlet.
 Beans and brown bread from our ovens were a week-
 ly source of income
 In our zeal to gather dollars, far afield we searched
 for plunder
 Even from Hollywood came answers; Hope, Lamour
 and Brian Donlevy
 Sent us treasurers for our Auction — gifts that found
 a ready market.
 Sweaters, Balaclava helmets, seamen's socks and
 leather jerkins,
 Were the products of our labor, yet the need was
 never ending
 Blankets for the London hostel, books and maga-
 zines for libraries,
 Socks and cigarettes for soldiers, newsy letters from
 the home front.
 Our gallant Canadian Corvette bore the name of
 "Vegreville",
 Proud were we of this distinction and we served it
 with a will.
 Washers, radios and cookies, candy from our ra-
 tioned sugar.

Sweaters, books and many comforts heartened lone-
 ly men at sea.
 Money seldom grows on bushes so we took it where
 we found it;
 Fashion Shows and flags for selling; rummage dug
 from dirty attics.
 Concerts, plays, subscriptions, bridges; apple sell-
 ing on street corners;
 Raffling of Christmas hampers, brought a total quite
 amazing.
 "The Play's the Thing" — we proved it often
 Fired with an urge for drama, armed with hammer,
 saw and scrub brush
 Costumes, furniture and grease paint, scripts we
 studied, scenes we painted,
 Plays were put into production. Sometimes true dra-
 matic talent
 Blossomed forth quite unexpected
 Coping with the wartime shortage, "Old Maids" met
 in grim "Convention"
 Brought the precious gift of laughter when the clouds
 were hanging heavy
 Tragedy stalked in "Spider Island", then "Summer
 Scene" — gay, effervescent.
 "Nothing but the Truth" was spoken, causing riotous
 confusion.
 "The Singing Ghost" with voice mysterious held the
 audiences spellbound.
 Touch with make-believe and magic, each in season
 shining brightly,
 These evoke a mood nostalgic as they pass in re-
 collections
 Memories never quite forgotten, shared by all who
 worked together.
 With the local troops returning, shy young warbrides
 came from Britain
 Eager to become Canadians, found a friendly hand
 extended.
 Gifts and parties in their honor warmed the chill
 Alberta winters,
 Helped them find a home among us as we tried to
 make them welcome.
 After wartime's heavy burdens we found many
 worthy causes —
 Local, National and Provincial, calling for continued
 effort.
 Swimming Pool and Public Library, Guides and
 Scouts and needy children;
 Refugees in war-torn countries, parcels sent by
 CARE to Britain.
 Aid to China, Milk for Babies, wedding gifts for the
 Royal Princess;
 Pictures of the Queen presented to adorn our local
 Courtroom.



Representing Major Fane Chapter IODE, left, standard-bearer Jean Kelly, and, right, regent Helen Spence. Representing Ada I. Wright Chapter IODE, right, standard-bearer Marge Cikaliuk, and, left, regent Kay King. 1959,

Many education projects — a crippled artist, gifted students,
Scholarships and Essay Contests, thus we upheld our
Chapter's motto
With its call to "Carry On".

Twice within our Chapter's span, "National" met in
the Capital City
Pondered many weighty problems in the building of
the nation.

The latter meeting is best remembered for its Western
Barbecue,
In festive mood we twirled our skirts in "aleman
left" and "do-si-do."

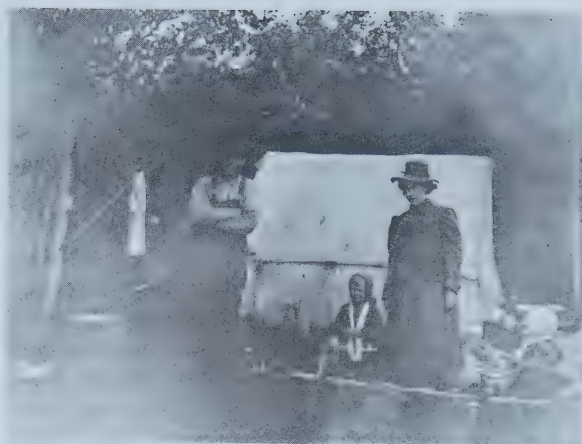
That woman's the truest patriot
Who loveth best the place called home
While upholding still our staunch tradition.
"One Flag, One Empire and One Throne".

The Chapter's activities continued along much
the same lines until many of the members had moved
away or resigned and the remaining few felt that the
work of the Order was being capably handled by the
young Chapter, Ada I. Wright. So in February, 1971,
Major Fane Chapter regrettably surrendered its Char-
ter.

Recreation at Sickman Lake



Picnic at Sickman Lake, early 1920's.



At Sickman Lake, 1912. The Franklins — Albert and Lottie, son Gordon standing, son Terrence in carriage.



C.G.I.T. leaders at Sickman Lake camp, 1925.

Ada I. Wright Chapter I.O.D.E. by Ruby Nikiforuk

Since its organization thirty-five years ago, the Ada I. Wright Chapter I.O.D.E. has been a very active group in Vegreville. With the enthusiasm of twelve business girls, headed by Miss Anita Scott, the moral support of the now-disbanded Major Fane Chapter and the Provincial Organizing Secretary, the Chapter received its charter in October of 1944. The name honors Miss Ada I. Wright, the first school teacher in Vegreville. Miss Wright came to Vegreville in 1905, where she taught public and high school until her retirement in 1942. She then moved to Ontario where she passed away some years later. It was a great satisfaction and honor to Miss Wright to know that her former pupils had named the chapter after her.

The following were charter members: Miss Anita Scott, Mrs. E. Tompkins, Mrs. S. Riskin, Mrs. A. Adamson, Mrs. W. Clegg, Mrs. E. Olson, Mrs. R. Nikiforuk, Miss O. Svarich, Miss D. Dunn, Miss Kay Kostashuk and Miss E. Johnson.

Since organizing, the chapter has done a great deal of very worthy work. The major portion of funds raised has been spent on educational work, both locally and through Provincial and National channels. For a number of years an adopted school in an isolated northern district was assisted with books, magazines, sports equipment, as well as awards to outstanding pupils.

Locally, our schools, both Public and Separate, have been presented pictures of the Royal family, a projector, film strips, screens, as well as annual awards to outstanding students. The Chapter has long been a supporter of our local library and for many years assisted with the mending of books, as well as members serving on the Library board. The checkout desk in our new library was donated by the Chapter.

A Brownie Pack was for a number of years sponsored by the chapter.

Welfare work has always been a very important part of our work. During the war years, monthly food parcels were sent to needy families in England and Scotland. In the past 35 years a great many knitted and sewn articles as well as nursery bags have been forwarded to the Provincial Chapter, who in turn have shipped them to the British Save the Children Fund for distribution to any part of the world where disaster has struck. Willing assistance has also been given locally to families in case of fire or other misfortune.

The Dr. Cairns School for the Handicapped and the local C.N.I.B. have been given assistance for Christmas parties. In conjunction with the Major Fane Chapter, a ward was completely furnished in the Pediatric section of our local hospital.

Our members are on hand to serve coffee and assist in Citizenship Courts held several times a year.

Our most recent project has been our assistance in the construction of the Creative Playground on the Queen Elizabeth School property. This is a source of recreation and enjoyment to children not only during the school hours but at all times.

I.O.D.E. is known as one of the outstanding patriotic women's organizations in Canada and as such the Ada I. Wright Chapter has at all times promoted the observance of patriotic anniversaries and loyalty to our Queen, Flag, and Country.

Our motto "Loyalty, Unity, and Fellowship".

St. John's Lodge No. 25 A.F. & A.M. Vegreville

by John Austin; Registrar, 1979

Date of Institution — September 27, 1906 as WHEAT SHEAF Lodge.

Date of Warrant — February 20, 1907. Changed to St. John's #25.



St. John's Masonic Lodge, Vegreville, 1975. Located at 5106-48 Ave.

Date of Consecration and Installation of first Master — July 10, 1907 Bro. J. S. Reid as W.M.

First meeting held in Vegreville High School room, later meetings in Sample room of Queen's (now Prince Edward) Hotel, and in Clute & Walkers. When Clements and Son built their store they built Lodge rooms above which were used from 1909 till February, 1937, when the building and contents were destroyed by fire. The only possessions saved were a record book or two which the secretary had taken home to work on and the two "Pillars in the West" which were salvaged and later renovated by Bro. Merle Thomas. After the fire, lodge was held in different locations, once in Innisfree but mostly in the basement of Vegreville United Church. The Rev. Bro. G. D. Armstrong was the Pastor and a Lodge Brother.

In 1938 a building across the street from the Observer office was bought and renovated with Bro. James McCrea (local school Principal) overseer and director of renovation. These Lodge rooms officially opened Oct. 3, 1938. Many of the present-day Lodge furnishings were donated at that time by sympathetic Sister Lodges and Brethren. In 1939 our present Master's Chair was donated by Bro. Dr. A. H. Goodwin and his Goodwin brothers of Westmorland Lodge in Port Elgin, N.B., handcrafted by "Goodwins." Now in this year, 1979, there have been 72 active Masons to grace the Master's chairs. The reader will recognize many of the important men in our local history who were Officers of St. John's before 1960, such as: Bros. J. B. Holden — Businessman and Mayor; Dr. A. H. Goodwin — pioneer dentist; F. A. Morrison — barrister and Judge; Dr. H. S. Monkman — killed in action in 1915; Dr. Rush — pioneer physician, came to old Vegreville in 1902; I. D. Worth — Jeweller; M. A. Worth — Businessman; W. T. Clements — Merchant; A. W. Fraser — Lumber merchant; H. H. Hacker — Gents furnishings; H. S.

Hurlburt — Barrister; Dr. R. M. Reid — pioneer physician, and his son, Dr. F. Reid; A. W. (Buster) Shaw — Garageman, and Floyd Shaw, farmer and partsman; G. N. Hosking — teacher and baseball coach; Hart Cantelon — United Church Minister; Fred Laing — C.P. Agent; Fred Duke — farmer, Sec'y; Silas Richardson — farmer; L. M. Edmunds — physician; A. L. Scholton — Alberta Power Area Manager.

I regret that I omit so many worthy Brothers' names. Special mention should be made that Samuel H. Hardin has left us a heritage of recorded early history of this area in his book "History of Greater Vegreville", also a volume of local Lodge History. Bro. Hardin has lived Masonry for many years, filling many high offices, including P.G. Master of Alberta. Another St. John's Brother served as Grand Master of Alberta. Although Bro. Phil Kendal lives in Edmonton, he often joins in our activities. Our late Bro. John F. Leach, one-time farmer, was for many years our Lodge Secretary.

About 1964 the law firm of Hurlburt and Moshansky offered to buy the Lodge property on main street, and as parking there was inadequate, it was decided to build a new Lodge building east of the United Church. Some of the building and finance committee were: Bros. Cliff King (Chairman), Terry Cole, Russ Nikiforuk, Howard Austin, Robert Bown, A. M. Scholton, Phil Austin, Wilf Horton, and Floyd Tuck, who together arranged the construction and fund-raising among Lodge Brethren. In forty months we occupied a debt-free Temple. Roof stress tests proved a need for extensive alterations, which were carried out. While this rebuilding was in progress, Lodge was held in the basement of St. Mary's Church, where the Rev. Bro. Chris Morton was our host. The cornerstone donated by C. C. Cousins of Borneo Co., Edmonton, was laid October 16, 1965, by Grand Master James Lauder. Masonry is a fraternity seeking to select and train men, making them Brothers and builders in the service of the best of life.

"Happy to meet — Sorry to part — Happy to meet again."

Joan of Arc Chapter #57, Order of the Eastern Star **by Irene (Kennedy) Shaw**

Joan of Arc Chapter evolved from a meeting of about forty people at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Reesor in 1925 in response to a letter from the Grand Chapter of Alberta, O.E.S. suggesting that such an organization might be formed.

Having received the approval of St. John's Lodge A.F. and A.M. regarding the use of their hall, and the

enthusiastic support of most of its members, they sought to strengthen their fellowship and share their beneficent purposes. Only five people at the original meeting had been members of a Star Chapter, viz; Mr. and Mrs. Reesor, Mrs. Lillian Williams and the two Mitchell sisters, Ida and Clara. The choice of a name, Joan of Arc, was selected as one representing loyalty, constancy and courage.

When the Chapter was formally initiated, with Mrs. Morna Reesor presiding as Worthy Matron and Dr. R. M. Reid as Worthy Patron, there were thirty members enrolled. It has a present membership of sixty-five.

The Order traces its origin back to its founder, Dr. Rob Morris of Oxford, Miss., who aspired to bring the female relatives of Master Masons into closer relationship with Masonry without surrendering any of the distinctive attributes of that ancient brotherhood. In 1867 the first Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Michigan and the roster of membership has since grown into millions.

The first charitable project to gain support in Joan of Arc Chapter was a fund to provide skates and skating tickets for any child in need of them. There were no Family Allowances in those years and many children would otherwise lack skating privileges. This project continued for some years.

In the broader field of endeavors, contributions were made to the Home Fund, a benevolent project which is still in effect to support cottage homes for elderly Star members in Grand Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.

In the Chapter's earlier years they maintained a friendly relationship with the Rebeccas, the feminine counterpart of the Oddfellows Lodge and several social events were reciprocally enjoyed.

Without the numerous counter-attractions of today, Vegreville was more socially inclined. Bridge parties, dinners and annual dances were well attended, but the cost of orchestras finally became prohibitive. The Minute Books reveal that Masons and Stars joined to celebrate "Burns Night". Admission 25¢ — proceeds for charitable purposes. (A real "Scotch" party.)

Much of the money raised in the early thirties was allocated to furnishing a complete Obstetrical Ward for the R.M.B. hospital which served this community for thirty years.

When the Chapter was eight years old a disastrous fire consumed the Clement Block in which the Masonic Hall was located. The piano, furnishings and regalia owned by the Masons were a total loss. In addition to the Masonic Hall and three apartments on the second floor, a general store and liquor store were also destroyed.

In the year or more that followed, with the gradual acquisition of new furnishings and regalia, meetings were held in the basement of the United Church until the Masonic Lodge purchased a building on Main Street which remained our Chapter home for the ensuing twenty-five years.

With the advent of World War II our specific projects became secondary to the demands of war work. We raised money for Red Cross, Refugees, War Saving Stamps, assistance to evacuated children, Canadian Save the Children Fund, C.A.R.E. and Victory Bonds.

After the war an educational project which has received favorable support in many American and Canadian Chapters became known as E.S.T.A.R.L. — Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership.

As a tangible bond between Canadian and American Chapters, a Peace Chapel of unique and beautiful architecture stands in the International Peace Garden and is open to all who seek its quiet sanctuary.

The Chapter's chief source of revenue for several years was catering for the Curlers' Banquet, carried on under difficult conditions in "Dobbins Hall" now known as the Legion, with no kitchen facilities and all food prepared at the home of Mrs. Lister upstairs in the C.N.R. Station, a fact that necessitated much climbing of stairs. Two kerosene stoves stood in the corridor for copper boilers of coffee and hot water, producing a memorable odor of smoky kerosene and coffee. Early records disclose that we served chicken dinners for 35¢ a plate and a net profit of \$24.80 was termed "highly successful".

For years we served lunches out at the old golf course (present site of the Environmental Station) for the annual Labor Day Tournament. One poignant memory returns when we recall that news of the outbreak of World War II reached us there and darkened a golden autumn day.

Probably no Chapter has suffered more inconvenience in the matter of a meeting place. The Masons having disposed of their Main Street property, we drifted from "pillar to post" pending the erection of the new Masonic Temple. Then, after a year of occupancy, structural errors became evident and once more we were dispossessed but eventually returned to our present permanent home.

The year 1975 was highlighted by the Chapter's Golden Anniversary when a large gathering celebrated the occasion with a Homecoming Tea, a Banquet and social evening. The Worthy Matron, Margaret Reid, presided at the head table and Worthy Patron, Russel Nikiforuk, was Master of Ceremonies. Fifty

year pins were presented to Sister Morna Reesor, the Charter Worthy Matron, and to Sr. E. M. Braden.

The presiding Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron are Sister Marion Wyllie and Brother Peter Wyllie under whose guidance the Chapter continues to fulfill the principles and ideals upon which it was founded. In the Grand Chapter of 1925 the Order is described as being established on principles "enunciated by the Galilean Teacher and echoed from Judea 2000 years ago. . . Its field of labor is as broad as the world and its mission as high and honorable as can be prompted by the heart of sympathy and love." Joan of Arc Chapter cherishes its heritage.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39 Vegreville, Alberta

On January 30, 1919, the Great War Veterans' Association was organized in Vegreville, with Mr. Nelson Lane serving as the first president. The first event the G.W.V.A. sponsored was a Peace Victory Celebration after the First World War, held on the old public school grounds in Vegreville. December 19, 1919, they held a large celebration in the Armoury to honor the soldiers returning home from the war. Meetings of the G.W.V.A. were held for many years in the old land office building, which later became the Public Library. Later still, the meetings were held in the old Armouries. In November, 1920, a Memorial Window was unveiled and dedicated in the United Church in Vegreville, by the then Major J. McK Hughes. In 1931 Remembrance Day, November 11, which had previously been held jointly with Thanksgiving Day in November, was officially set aside as a legal holiday to be known as "Remembrance Day", a holiday which is honored to this day.

On January 11, 1927, the organization was re-chartered as THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH #39, with Mr. Arthur Wain as the first president. The first meeting was held in the Armoury and later meetings were held in the Armoury and the Oddfellows Hall until 1946, when the meetings were moved to the upstairs hall of the Dobbins Block. Since the organization of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, the members have diligently worked to continue the dreams and aspirations of the men of vision who participated in the original organization.

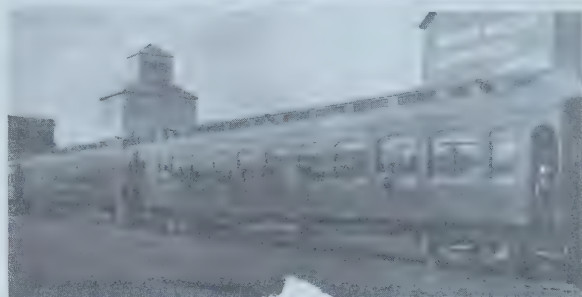
On Friday, April 9, 1937, the Inaugural "VIMY BANQUET" was held in Vegreville to honor the First World War Veterans, a celebration which is practiced to this day. The Royal Canadian Legion has also held Decoration Day services at the Riverside Cemetery, where in 1964 a Memorial was erected to



Nick Bucyk. Early 1900's.

commemorate those comrades who have no known graves.

In December, 1945, having had no building of their own, the Legion began working towards the purchase of the "Dobbins Block" in Vegreville, the site where the Legion is presently located. The dream of a memorial hall, first begun by the G.W.V.A. in May, 1919, was finally being realized. In early 1946,



Troop trains, 1914.

repairs began on the Dobbins Block. Many members gave endlessly of their time over the years to repair and remodel the building and the results of their efforts can be seen in the building in its present location at 5131-50 Street in Vegreville. In June, 1946, work began on the development of the clubroom in the basement of the building. In August, 1949, a liquor licence for beer was applied for but was turned down by the Alberta Liquor Control Board because the conditions of the clubroom did not meet their specifications. So, it was back to work for the members until 1952, when the renovations were completed and approved by the A.L.C.B. and the clubroom was officially licenced for beer sales. It was not until 1972 that the licence for "hard liquor" was obtained.

On April 9, 1948, at the Vimy Day Celebrations in the Legion Hall, the outstanding event was the burning of the original mortgage. In 1960 the south side of the present clubroom was completed and appropriately named the "Normandy Room". It was officially opened at a celebration on June 17, 1960. In 1964 further renovations were made to the clubroom and it was officially opened April 9, 1964. In 1973 and 1974 new carpet was installed in the Clubroom as well as new furniture purchased and the clubroom was brought up to its present-day standards. There are numerous mementos of the World Wars on display in the clubroom, including the cherished Ship's Bell from the minesweeper, HMCS VEGREVILLE, which was in action in World War II. The Bell was obtained from a museum in B.C. in 1972. Also from the ship is the last flag flown on it, obtained by the

Legion in 1970. These and other precious mementos can be viewed in the clubroom.

In July, 1952, Mr. Sam Smolyk represented the Legion at a town council meeting and requested that a small area of land in the park south of the swimming pool be allocated for the purpose of building a permanent cenotaph. Unanimous approval was granted to the proposal and thus began the plans. By January, 1953, the Cenotaph was erected, and on August 14, 1953, the Cenotaph, which had been erected in memory of the fallen of the two World Wars, was officially unveiled in a very fitting fashion. The Cenotaph remains the site of present day Remembrance Day celebrations. In 1976, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Legion's Golden Anniversary Celebrations, the Commemorative Fieldstone Wall was added to the Cenotaph, with plaques of the names of the fallen comrades from the two World Wars.

Since its inception, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #39, has become an integral part of the Vegreville Community through its supportive roles in the Cancer Drive, the Red Cross Campaign, the Polio Drive, the Crippled Children's Fund, the Library Fund, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Salvation Army, and numerous other worthwhile activities. They provide financial assistance to various community programs and have worked with the youth of the community through the sponsorship of Army Cadets, Athletic Programs, and the Annual Poster and Essay Contests. They remain active in activities of the Legion at all levels, and all the while continue their services to the ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their families in seeing that their needs are being met whatever they may be. The funds for their operations have come from numerous activities including food booths during Fair days, bingos, ticket sales, and the management of the Legion Building, all of which had required many volunteer hours. One of the large projects now being carried on by the Legion is the Lakefront Project, the development of a recreational area at the Lake Bellevue, Alberta. Since the project began in 1976, long, hard hours have been invested by the members to develop the area into a beautiful, natural parkland to be enjoyed by club members and youth groups of the community.

Many of the hardworking members of the Royal Canadian Legion have passed on and their names are too numerous to mention. Of interest, however, is the list of the past presidents, the leaders of the organization.

G.W.V.A. Chartered January 30, 1919

1919-1920 — Nelson Lane
1921-1922 — H. A. Kennedy
1922-1923 — Arthur Wain

1924 — John Casson
1925 — E. H. Wynn-McKenzie
1926 — Doctor E. H. Carlton

Re-Chartered January 11, 1927 As Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #39

1927-1929 — Arthur Wain
1930-1931 — H. T. Taylor
1932 — Wm. Turner
1933-1936 — T. O. B. Gore-Hickman
1937 — Clayton T. Third
1938 — Wm. Turner
1939-1940 — H. S. Hurlburt
1941 — Floyd Shaw
1942 — Jack Moss
1943-1947 — Silas Richards
1948-1956 — E. F. (Bill) Morton
1957-1959 — Mike Craddock
1960 — M. Fedoruk
1961-1962 — Albert Gafka
1963-1964 — Sol Lucow
1965-1966 — Mike Craddock
1967-1968 — T. D. (Terry) Soldan
1969-1970 — Walter Gafka
1971-1972 — Orville Tebbutt
1973-1974 — Nickon Shandro
1975-1976 — Doctor Albert Bildfell
1977 — W. B. Welsh
1978-1979 — Wilfred Steinbach
1980 — George Hoggins

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #39, through its over 300 Ordinary, Life, Honorary, Associate, and Fraternal Affiliate members, continues to operate in Vegreville in its efforts to promote comradeship and fellowship and a healthy community life.

Mystery Ship Bell

A ship's bell which sounded a clarion call during the historic Dieppe Raid on the Minesweeper HMCS Vegreville has reached its proper resting place.

Following impressive ceremonies recently, the bell is now in a place of honor at the Royal Canadian Legion clubrooms in Vegreville. Just how certain individuals were able to obtain the bell from a Victoria museum is a mystery.

Also a mystery is how the navy named a minesweeper HMCS Vegreville. At any rate, at the unveiling in Vegreville, three original members of the minesweeper's crew — John Loyer of Edmonton; Norman Grey, Calgary; and J. F. Wood, Drumheller, were present.

The Vegreville Legion Cenotaph

Erected by the Royal Canadian Legion Vegreville Branch #39. Golden Anniversary 1976.

"From little towns in a far land we came to save our honour and a world aflame; by little towns in a far land we sleep and trust those things we won you to keep. — Rudyard Kipling.

"In Memory of The Vegreville and District Service Personnel who paid The Supreme Sacrifice."

Servicemen buried in Riverside Cemetery:

Barnes, A. J.	Hinde, Benny
Bednal, Jack	Horton, J. A.
Bourgette, George	Hrushka, Steve
Bowen, Wilson	Hrushka, William
Bratushesky, Albert	Henderson, D. A.
Campbell, J. C.	Hughston, James E.
Carter, Vernon	Innes, Walter P.
Cedor, Steve	Johnston, George W.
Coble, W. J.	Kitlarchuk, Mike
Day, Fred	Kulmatycki, Steve
Demchuk, Theodore	Lowdahl, Carl
Diachuk, Trifon	Lypka, Andrew
Dunn, Rod	Mason, H. C.
English, Garnet	McGowan, Chester
Gilroy, J. N.	Mills, D. K.
Gorsline, Alex	Moore, Russell T.
Gorsline, Burns	Morton, E. F. (Bill)
Gresiuk, Fred	Morton, Tennar
Hantiuk, George	Muzechka, Nick
Hayes, George	Mysek, John
Hewco, Mike	Mezinski, Joe
Holmes, J. W.	
Headrick, Wesley	



Leaving for Calgary under Frank Fane. (l. to r.) — Roy Trimble, Ralph Hayter, Bill Nicholson, Jock Trimble. About 1918.



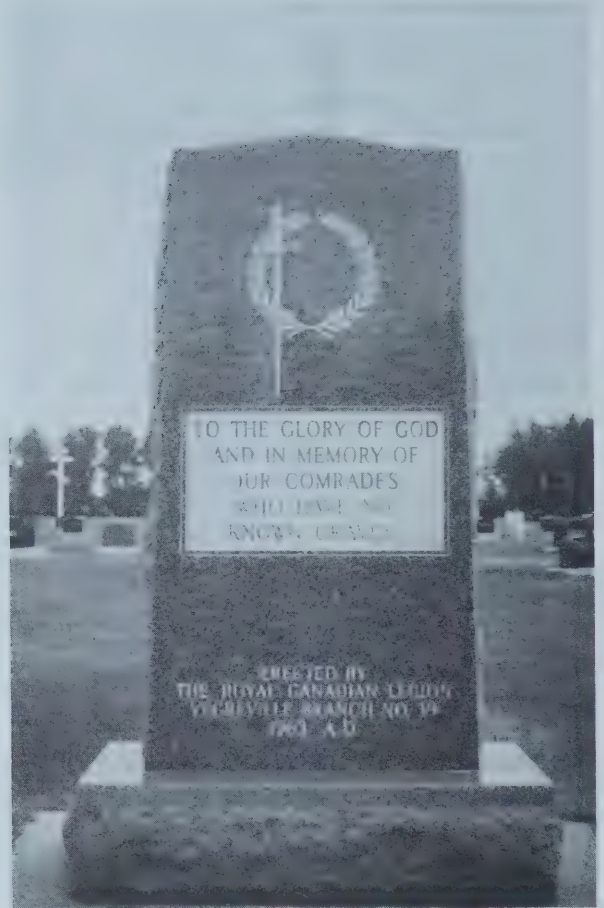
Legion insignia, 1980.



Original Cenotaph erected by the Legion Members, 1976.



Type of dress for Legion members, 1970's.



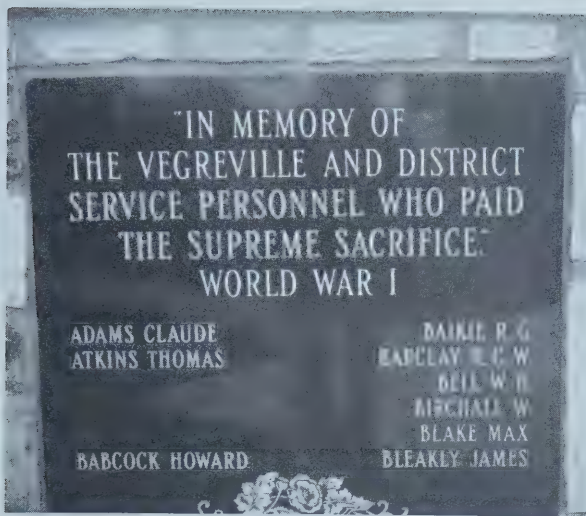
Monument honoring soldiers in Riverside Cemetery, 1963.



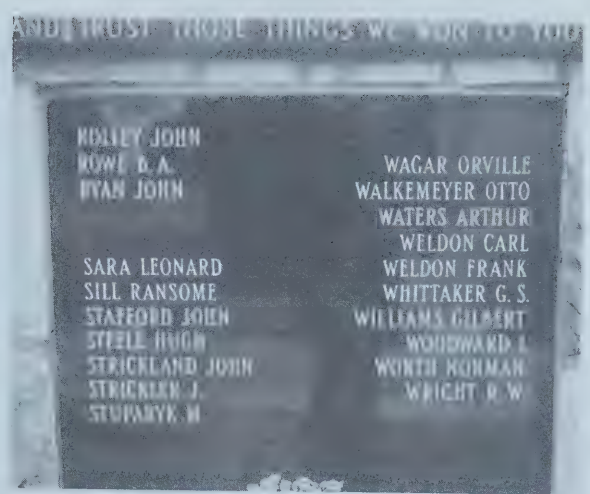
The fieldstone wall was built in 1976, the Golden Anniversary of the Legion.



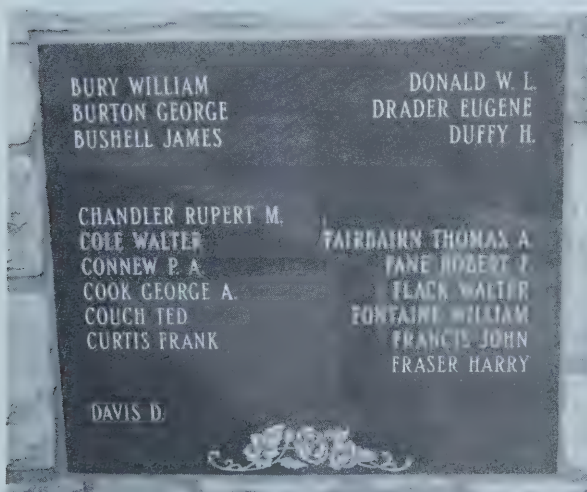
Mary Hantiuk who lost son Nick in World War II placing wreath at Vegreville Cenotaph, Nov. 11, 1956. (Vegreville Swimming Pool in background).



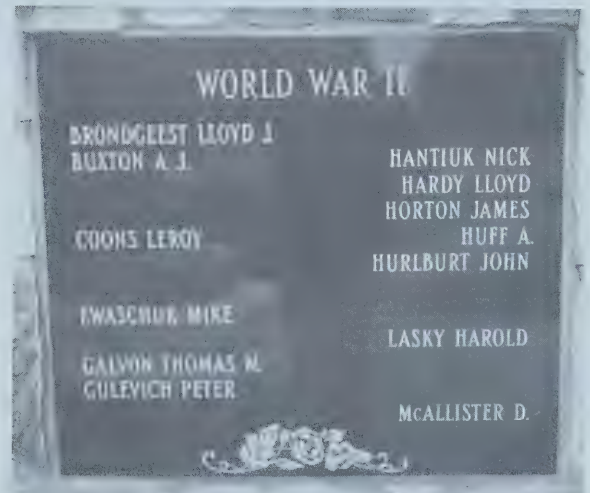
Plaques on fieldstone wall, 1976.



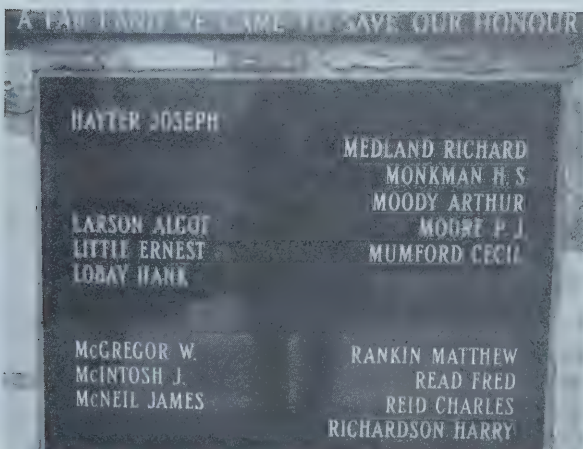
Plaques on fieldstone wall, 1976.



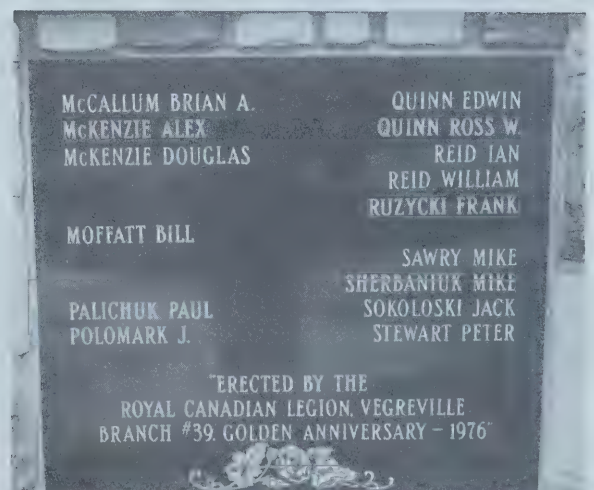
Plaques on fieldstone wall, 1976.



Plaques on fieldstone wall, 1976.



Plaques on fieldstone wall, 1976.



Plaques on fieldstone wall, 1976.



Remembrance Day Service at Cenotaph, prior to 1976.



Executive of Ladies' Auxiliary to Royal Canadian Legion, 1970's.



Vegreville Legion Executive, #39, 1970's.



The Legion Block (originally Dobbins Block), Main St. and 52 Ave., 1967. John Hantiuk, decorator on ladder, and his panel truck below; Elsie Cowan, caretaker at window; Fedoruk's Studio occupied premises to left; Sharun's Red and White in main part; club room below; and suites and Legion Hall up-stairs.



Past President's plaque presented to President Walter Gafka by Mr. Peter Subot, 1969.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39

by Shirley Imeson — Secretary

The Auxiliary was formed in 1944 when they received their Charter on November 24th of that year.

The 25 Charter members were Mesdames: J. S. Reid, J. Taylor, J. C. Campbell, J. C. Coons, H. S. Hurlburt, R. A. Nikiforuk, W. F. Taylor, R. L. Dunn, F. Clark, F. W. McCarty, S. Walker, A. Adamson, A. W. Fraser, S. A. Patch, S. Richards, J. C. Clements, H. Burgar, W. Stuparek, L. Whitford, F. C. Clegg, C. Fuller, J. Fitzallen, S. Riskin and W. F. Shaw.

Charter members still in Vegreville are Mrs. W. Stuparek, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. W. F. Shaw and Mrs. R. A. Nikiforuk. Objects: "The principle aims and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion shall be the principle of the Auxiliary and its duty shall be to assist the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in the activities necessary to the carrying out thereof".

The Auxiliary has had an average of 50 members per year including all categories.

Their early projects were sending parcels overseas through the Kinsmen. Quilts were constantly set up and worked by members over the war years.

The members have assisted the Men's Branch at the Fair Booth every year since the early 1940's and have catered to several banquets each year.

It is interesting to note that in 1948 banquets were catered at \$1.25 for a hot plate and .75 cents for a cold buffet plate.

This organization has contributed each year to several funds and awards. Each year a donation is given to the Provincial Hospital Fund which is distributed to the Veterans' Hospitals in Alberta. Financial assistance is also given to Polio, Red Cross, Cancer and Salvation Army as well as to the Legion. Annually a Provincial Bursary Award is given to the top student in Grade Twelve and there is also a bursary award to a local student in Grade Twelve with top marks. (The student must be a relative of a veteran.)

Catering, raffles and teas are some of our ways of raising money. Our latest project is in assisting with the financing of the Legion's Lac Bellevue Development.

Vimy night, April 9, is observed each year by members with a banquet and social evening honoring Vimy and World War I veterans.

Vegreville Elks' Lodge No. 143

by Michael H. Tomyn

Elks' Lodge No. 143 (full name — Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks) was instituted on November 22, 1926 when a group of Edmonton brethren in a chartered car accompanied District



Veterans and widows honored at Vimy Night, 1965. Back row (l. to r.) — W. Headrick, W. Baker, W. Turner, B. Watt, C. Lowe, R. Cole, D. Shyslak, K. Ferguson, F. Shaw, G. Erickson. Middle row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Headrick, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Watt, Joan Bowen, P. Subot, R. Hoggins, J. Storoschuk, N. Bucyk, F. Fane, Mrs. F. Shaw, J. Ziegler. Front row (l. to r.) — N. Gilroy, Vera Turner, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Pagee, Mrs. Bourget, Mrs. R. Hoggins, Mrs. Storoschuk, Mrs. Fane, Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. J. Ziegler.



Elks Officers, 1957. (L. to r.) — Michael H. Tomy, William G. Porayko, Ronald Porayko, Scotty Keiffer, Leo Cherot, Roy Cole, Sol Lucow, Terry Cole, Robert Robert, Lemmie Cole, Dale Cole.

Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler (D.D.G.E.R.) Bro. Heller (the Edmonton contingent being strengthened by a degree team from Vermilion) initiated in a time-honored ceremony the 43 new members. The first officers of the B.P.O. Elks, Vegreville, were:

Past Exalted Ruler — A. L. Horton
 Exalted Ruler — Dr. A. H. Goodwin
 Esteemed Reading Knight — N. A. Burgess
 Esteemed Loyal Knight — A. W. Shaw
 Esteemed Lecturing Knight — P. J. Shultz
 Secretary — L. S. Turcotte
 Treasurer — J. J. Stanton
 Inner Guard — C. Bigham
 Tyler — H. V. Cundal
 Board of Trustees — Dr. A. Couillard, W. Kennedy, M. Dutka

Esquire — D. Rose
 Chaplain — A. W. Liddiatt.

There were five honorary life members: E. R. (Dad) Black, W. Barrie, Dr. A. H. Goodwin, A. L. Horton and A. W. Shaw.

Other well-known and remembered members who were active in former years were: E. H. (Elwood) Brinton, J. H. (Harold) Kennedy, and L. S. (Lemmie) Cole.



Elks' Lodge, 1970.

Also still with us who have helped steer the Elks through the forest for many years include Roy Cole and C. W. Brinton. The surviving charter members are W. Kennedy and Dr. J. Yakimischak.

For quite a number of years, the Lodge has retained a membership of from 90 to 120.

For an organization to exist fifty years in a community is a remarkable achievement. Who are the Elks and what do they do? The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) of Canada is a combination of a fraternal society and a social and service club. It is a Canadian Order with a membership, including its auxiliary — the "Order of the Royal Purple (O.O.R.P.)", of over 75,000. It has over 343 Lodges in all parts of Canada.

The Lodge provided the community with a brass band in the early thirties. It furnished hospital wards and supplied the School for the Retarded and the Senior Citizens' Home each with a piano. When Ted Humphrey's home was destroyed by fire, the Elks assisted the family financially, set up a public fund drive and donated labor for the construction of a new home.



The Elks' Band at Fair time, 1931.



Elks' Patrol Team, 1979. (L. to r.) — Jim Durie, Orest Fodchuk, Art Ziegler, Harold McCarty, George Hoggins, Harold Coleman, Andy Olineck, Russel Chudyk, Gordon Henderson, Larry Ronald, Ken Steinwand.

In 1960 and up to the present time, the Elks have been involved in other worthwhile projects. For example — the construction, development and upkeep of the Elks fish pond and park on the east end of town. Yearly the pond is stocked with several thousand rainbow trout. Children under the age of sixteen and senior citizens have the use of the Elks fish pond during the summer. The area is a tourist attraction. The biggest Ukrainian Easter Egg “The Pysanka” is located in the park.

Through the Purple Cross Fund the Elks have, with the help of the Sister organization — The Ladies of the Royal Purple (O.O.R.P.), supported the Glenrose Speech and Hearing Unit. The club purchased a deaf detection unit for our local hospital to test hearing of babies. The Club has sponsored and supported hockey clubs, baseball teams, Scouts and Cadets. In the early years it ran a carnival in the old curling rink just west of the present Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Raffles and bingos held periodically produced much of the money used for community projects.

Most recently the Lodge has purchased a Heart Monitor for the local hospital, a piece of very essential equipment.

Initially the Elks’ meetings were held in Dobbins Hall (Legion Hall). In 1932 the Lodge bought the Boys’ Home, a two-storey house, located on the premises of W. Czar’s present home, in the south-east part of town (4302-49 St.) — two blocks south of the cenotaph. In 1942 the Lodge purchased the Hall they presently own; the building was the former Labor Hall, officially known as the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association which was taken over by the town in 1937 due to non-payment of taxes. It is located on main street, a block north of the C.N.R. tracks.

Since then the hall has been remodelled — first it was extended on the west end and then the kitchen and washroom facilities and upstairs lodge room were added on the east end.

The Vegreville Elks Lodge has achieved provincial and national acclaim, — as the following will testify:

C. W. Brinton — Provincial President — 1949-50

R. Robert - Provincial President — 1962-63

Dr. N. J. Kuzyk — Provincial President — 1967-68

R. Robert — Grand Exalted Ruler (National President) — 1967-68

Dr. N. J. Kuzuk — Grand Exalted ruler (National President) — 1975-76.

R. Robert and Dr. N. J. Kuzyk made history in Elkdom because at no time before did a Canadian



Elks' Float — Vegreville Exhibition Parade, 1979. (L. to r.) — Ken Steinwand, Marion Baxandall, Olga Gegolick, Brian Henderson, Ed. Baxandall, Eileen Kassian, Lana Henderson, Leah Henderson.

town have two Grand Exalted Rulers (National Presidents).

At any Elks’ function, at eleven o’clock there is a customary ceremony with a sober message: (in part) “The faults of our brothers we write upon the sands of the sea where they may be quickly effaced and forgotten, while their virtues we inscribe upon the tablets of our hearts, so that we may realize in a larger degree the living meaning of the brotherhood of man.”

Past Exalted Rulers B.P.O.E. No. 143

1926 — A. H. Goodwin	1954-56 — R. E. Robert
1927-28 — J. J. Stanton	1956-57 — S. Lucow
1928-29 — L. S. Turcotte	1957-58 — N. J. Kuzyk
1929-30 — A. Klimoff	1958-59 — L. Cherot
1930-31 — Elwood Brinton	1959-60 — R. Porayko
1931-32 — J. H. Kennedy	1960-61 — W. Dowhaniuk
1932-33 — A. M. Johnson	1961-62 — J. Mast
1933-34 — J. H. Kennedy	1962-63 — H. Landry
1934-35 — A. M. Johnson	1963-64 — M. Kawulych
1935-36 — L. S. Cole	1964-65 — R. Cairns
1936-37 — R. H. Woods	1965-66 — D. Lowe
1937-38 — E. R. Horton	1967-68 — R. Chudyk
1938-39 — C. W. Brinton	1968-69 — H. McCarty
1939-40 — W. Barrie	1969-70 — O. Youzwishen
1940-41 — D. W. Kennedy	1970-71 — A. Ziegler
1941-43 — W. Lieschman	1971-72 — J. Furkalo
1943-45 — R. O. Cole	1972-73 — O. Fodchuk
1945-46 — L. S. Cole	1974-75 — A. Olinek
1946-48 — A. W. Mercier	1975-76 — M. Sorochan
1948-50 — W. Wade	1976-77 — J. Liden
1950-51 — W. G. Porayko	1977-78 — G. Hoggins
1951-53 — D. W. Cole	1978-80 — B. Henderson
1953-54 — T. D. Soldan	(present)

Much of the above information is courtesy of Vegreville Observer, February 12, 1976.

Elks Patrol Team

The Vegreville Elks Patrol Team was organized in 1972 with George Hoggins as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Harold Coleman and Jim Durie have provided the music.

The original Patrol Team marchers were: Andy Olineck, Harold McCarty, Russel Chudyk, Arthur Ziegler, Gordon Henderson, Orest Fodchuk, Howard Lamb, Melvin Ness, Mat Sorochn, Jack Dekker and Jim Durie.

More recent additions to the patrol team are: Leo Cartier, Ed Baxandall, Ken Stienwand, Andy Sharun, and Larry Ronald.

The team has entered Provincial competitions several times and has done very well. It is the only Patrol Team in northeastern Alberta. They assist with Initiation and Installation of various Elks and O.O.R.P. Lodges in several districts.

Order of the Royal Purple (1950-1979)

written by Jeanette Bushko

The Order of the Royal Purple was instituted in Vegreville, on May 17, 1950. Thirty-one ladies gathered at the Elks Hall to form an Auxiliary to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and become Charter Members of the Vegreville Lodge #125.

District Deputy Supreme Honored Royal Lady Pheobe McCullough and twenty members of the Edmonton Lodge instituted the Order and installed the new officers.

Anne Porayko was installed first Honored Royal Lady.

C. W. Brinton, of the Alberta Elks Association, and Wallace Wade, Exalted Ruler of the Vegreville Elks Lodge, were guests at this ceremony.

The first year was a learning process, and the ladies did not undertake any projects of their own, but did participate in all the activities of the Brother Elks.

The only kitchen the Elks Hall had to offer at the time was a large converted stove in the dugout under the stage. It was here that the coffee was made in a boiler, to serve at the dances that were often held at the hall.

Some of the first undertakings of the ladies were card parties and teas, for which Elizabeth Moore and Bessie Tunis would offer their homes.

In the 1950's the Elks added a small kitchen to their hall and the catering began. For a few years it was quite a business. The young mothers left their small children with babysitters and all turned out to help. This frequent close contact with each other created a feeling of one big family amongst the members.

Finances realized from the catering were donated to Save the Children Fund and any community projects that happened to be underway at the time.

Catering was given up when Commercial Caterers began to take over.

For several years the Lodge put on a Hallowe'en Dance. The majority of the people that turned out were in costume and showed the enthusiasm and creativity of the times.

In 1956 the Ladies of the Royal Purple and the Elks undertook the production of the play "Aaron Slick from Punkin Crick." The practices were a source of great fun for those that took part in it. They even took it out of town.

In later years the Elks created the Purple Cross Fund. One of its objectives is Deaf Detection. The Vegreville Lodge began making annual donations to this Fund and still does. Several years ago, through this Fund, two hearing-aids were purchased for a local boy.

The Lodge celebrated its 10th, 15th, and 25th Anniversaries with a banquet and dance. Eleven charter members were present at the 25th Anniversary.

In 1964 the Royal Purple and the Elks got together for the first Memorial Service for their departed brothers and sisters. Since then this service is held annually, the first Sunday in December.

As the years go by, the activities of the Lodge change to conform with the times. For a number of years now, they have assisted in the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, which comes to town three times a year; they take part in canvassing for the many worthy charities; visit the Hospitals, Senior Citizens Home, and Dr. Cairns School, with treats for all.



Charter Member Ladies of the Royal Purple (OORP) — present at 25th Anniversary, with two Supreme Lodge Officers in attendance, 1975.

Sitting (l. to r.) — Edna Mercier; Past Supreme Honored Royal Lady Irene Francoeur from Camrose; Supreme Honored Royal Lady Lillian French from Hanna; Anne Porayko. Standing (l. to r.) — Louise Cole, Anne Zaorizny, Olga Kassian, Lucy Kassian, Anne Soldan, Lena Shapka, Vera Fedoruk, Elizabeth Moore.

They donate to, and assist with the Christmas Bureau.

Over the years the membership has increased and at the present time stands at 88. Seven members died. The Lodge has 24 Past Honored Ladies; six of them have held the office of District Deputy, and had supervision over the six lodges in this District, which includes Mundare, Vegreville, Mannville, Vermilion, Lloydminster and Marwayne. Nine members have been presented with Life Memberships.

Past Honored Royal Ladies: Anne Porayko, Elizabeth Moore, Edna Mercier, Lillian Sokolosky, Lucy Kassian, Anne Zaozirny, Anne Soldan, Florence Bauer, Marge Cherot, Lois Gregory, Laura Golinsky, Gladys Landry, Olga Kassian, Rita Dowhaniuk, Eileen Kassian, Georgina Robert, Olga Youzwishen, Doreen Demkiw, Opal McCarty, Margaret Ziegler, Sophie Edge, Rose Hunka, Mary Fedoruk, Jeanette Bushko.

Past District Deputies: Anne Porayko, Jeanette Bushko, Edna Mercier, Anne Soldan, Lois Gregory, Eileen Kassian.

Life Members: Anne Porayko, Elizabeth Moore, Bessie Tunis, Jessie Maller, Louise Cole, Eileen Kassian, Tillie Shavchook, Anne Maciborsky, Anne Zoazirny.

Deceased: Helen Sokolosky, Isabelle Pawliuk, Vera Chmiliar, Louise Cole, Bessie Tunis, Vicki Wengreniuk, Olga Russ.

The Vegreville Lions Club by Past District Governor Lawton Westrom

In 1947 a group of community-minded citizens were attracted by the Lions Motto "We Serve".

They were sponsored by the Andrew Lions Club with Lion Wilf Holbein as head organizer and District Governor Wilfred J. Edgar of Innisfail in charge of the District.

They received their charter at a celebration night held in the Legion Hall, Vegreville, Friday, December 12, 1947. Thus the Vegreville Lions Club was born. The Charter President was Lion Ray Lawson, charter Secretary Lion Bill Morton, Padre, well remembered Rev. Hart Cantelon. Thirty-four people took the oath of allegiance and became Lion members of the Vegreville Lions Club and Lions International.

The Lions International District was #37 and it consisted of the State of Montana, Province of Alberta, and parts of N.W. Territories and British Columbia.

It was further subdivided into 37A-south $\frac{2}{3}$ of Montana, 37C-north $\frac{1}{3}$ of Montana, plus south $\frac{1}{3}$ of Alberta; 37B-from just north of Calgary and the rest

of Alberta, parts of N.W.T. and British Columbia. The club in Vegreville was part of Lions District 37B.

Lions International, even then, was large by standards of that time as it consisted of around 300,000 members in 5000 clubs in 20 countries of the world.

The Motto of Lionism is "We Serve" so it was made up with members who cared and were willing to assist and help the members of the community in which they lived. It has been so successful that to-day "Lions Club International" consists of 1,281,960 members in 33,237 clubs and 615 Districts in 150 countries and geographic areas of the world!

Throughout that tremendous expansion the Vegreville Lions Club has played the role well. During the past 33 years, three District Governors have been members of the club — Lion Virgil P. Moshansky 1962-63 who later became International Director, Lion Dr. Jack DoBush 1968-69 and Lion Lawton Westrom 1977-78.

Some 180 people have joined and moved on since that Charter Night thirty-seven years ago. Only one of the charter members remains, a stalwart Lion, Ernie Merkel. The club has maintained an average of around forty members for all these years, reaching a peak in 1963 of sixty members.

Throughout that time it has excelled in community service by raising many thousands of dollars through shows, car, stock and cash bingos, raffles, etc. They operated the Large Ranchman's Bingos for the entire district for several years. They sold decals, ran a cribbage tournament, sponsored many auction sales, operated confectionery stands, ran Crown and Anchor at fairs, operated beer gardens, did census taking, ran shopping sprees, built and raffled a playhouse and ran newspaper bingos, just to mention a few. This is mentioned to show how versatile they have been in their fund-raising projects. The club has contributed greatly to the needs of the community and has sponsored directly or assisted in such projects as safety campaigns, many baseball and hockey clubs, hospital equipment, musical shows, built and operated an outdoor skating rink complete with office and restrooms, sponsored the original Square Dance Club and many student visitations to U.S.A. and other parts of the world, sponsored Children under CARE, built playgrounds and parks and supplied equipment, maintained at least one foster child every year, sponsored School Bands, Christmas hampers, Scholastic Rewards and Christmas Cake sales, contributed much to Boy Scouts, Suppers for the Blind, and many very large contributions to the Vegreville Rec. Center, also School for the Retarded, Senior Citizen Taxi Service, Youth Exchange, Lions

Bus and Lions portable Band Shell for community use.

This list could go on and on and is far from complete but it indicates the tremendous variety of services that a group can do under the motto "We Serve".

In addition, the club has participated in Easter Seal Campaigns, Red Cross, CNIB and Cancer and Heart Fund drives, A.C.T. Search for Talent Shows, Crippled Children's fund, T.B. clinics, Home for the Retarded fund raising, sponsoring and managing a thirty-suite Senior Citizens Home and practically anything that needs a helping hand in community development.

The Vegreville Lions Club can be justly proud of their accomplishments over the last 37 years and I am sure that they will continue in the same vein in the future as Lions' work is never done.

Back in 1917 a man envisioned a group of clubs that could do these great things. His name was Melvin Jones, the Founder of Lionism. He saw Lions International founded at Dallas, Texas, October 8, 1917, and saw it grow to over a half million members. He became ill on a trip to a District 37 convention in Edmonton in 1960. He passed away in 1961, but he shall not be forgotten. When asked what he saw in the future for Lionism he would say, "I hope there will always be a 'Land of Beyond' for Lions Clubs International, a goal that will keep growing larger as we approach it, yet will keep just out of reach, challenging us to run faster, work harder, think bigger, give more."

This has come to pass in the Vegreville Lions Club.

The Kinsmen Club of Vegreville Charter History

KINSMEN CLUB OF VEGREVILLE — Chartered November 3, 1938. Sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton. Carroll McClure was installed as Charter President of the Club.

KINETTE CLUB OF VEGREVILLE — Chartered June 30, 1964. Olga Russ was installed as Charter President.

K-40 CLUB OF VEGREVILLE — Chartered June 24, 1960. Charter President Tom Demco.

Since the awarding of their Charter on November 3, 1938, The Kinsmen Club of Vegreville has maintained an excellent record of achievement in the community. The original membership of thirty-one young men started the ball rolling, and the present membership of fifty-one carries on in the same tradition.

One of the first projects was to spearhead the drive to raise funds — nearly \$30,000.00 — to build

the Vegreville Swimming Pool which still serves the community some forty years later. The Kinsmen Club was very active in support of wartime projects — the Canadian Red Cross, Milk for Britain, etc., and is still actively engaged in assisting the Red Cross to organize and conduct blood donor clinics in Vegreville. Many hours of volunteer Kin labor have gone into baseball, hockey, skating and track — in coaching duties, as well as supplying needed equipment. A notable amount of time, money and labour was directed towards the Boy Scout movement during the past, as the Kinsmen completely renovated the Scout Hut and assumed the sponsorship of the Boy Scout movement in Vegreville. Each year the Kinsmen provide Christmas treats to the children in junior grades at all Vegreville schools, and they spent many hours each spring instructing youngsters in the rudiments of cycling skills and safety. They also reward deserving students each year at the Grade nine and twelve level in both school systems. The Kinsmen have provided many comforts for patients in local hospitals as they donate T.V.'s, radios and equip hospital wards. The Kinsmen Club assumed full responsibility for all utility bills incurred at the Dr. Cairns School for Retarded Children in Vegreville, while on the national level they have contributed \$1,200.00 in 1969, towards the Kinsmen National Institute on Mental Retardation in Toronto. For their Golden Anniversary project the Kinsmen Club of Vegreville prepared and equipped a children's playground in central-west Vegreville, known as Kinsmen 50th Anniversary Playground. The Kinsmen also maintain two other playgrounds — one on the north side of town and one adjacent to the swimming pool.

The Kinsmen have provided funds for an Ice Cleaner at the Recreation Center and for renovations to the Club Room of the local Curling Club, both of which are used extensively during the winter months.

The Golf Course is in need of grass greens and the club has seen fit to contribute \$10,000.00 to the cause.

By marshalling the Ukrainian Festival Parade and monitoring gate entrances, the Kinsmen contribute towards the success of the annual Ukrainian Festival.

Kinsmen have shown appreciation to the business community for their support of Kinsmen projects by sponsoring the Annual Businessmen's Appreciation Breakfast.

The Kinsmen laid a brick for the national building in Toronto and are supporting the Cystic Fibrosis campaign greatly with their financial assistance.

Presently the Kinsmen are constructing a campsite and family leisure area in the central east side of town, bordering the Vermilion River and opposite

the Elks' campsite and fishing pond. Included will be campsite, stoves, tables, etc. and a participark.

The Kinsmen are looking forward to supporting the needs of our children and our community in the future, as we have in the past.

Charter Members

Carroll McClure — President	Leo Milner
Barney Barnstable	Herb McKenzie
Nesty Cherniawski	Stan Reid
Stan Fallows	Fred Steininger
Ted Horton	George Warren
Lloyd Korstad	Cam Campbell
Neil Primrose	Harvey Dittburner
Sid Smith	Sid Holmes
Earl Tompkins	Mike Kieryluk
Emil Wener	Johnny Lemiski
Viv Brondgeest	Bob More
Bob Connor	Steve Nichol
Max Guben	Buster Shaw
Phil Kendal	Tommy Tait
Stan Kostaschuk	Newt Warren

Past Presidents

1938-39 — Carroll McClure
1939-40 — Emil Wener
1940-41 — Wilf Cobble
1941-42 — Cam Campbell
1942-43 — George Warren
1943-44 — Tommy McNally
1944-45 — John Decore
1945-46 — Carroll McClure
1946-47 — Gordon Strong
1947 — George Warren
1947-48 — Steve Pawliuk
1948-49 — Newt Warren
1949-50 — Cliff King
1950-51 — John Finlay
1951-52 — Al Scholton
1952-53 — Russ Nikiforuk
1953-54 — Fred Reid
1954-55 — Nick Kuzyk
1955-56 — Terry Soldon
1956-57 — Alex Desmond
1957-58 — Leo Cherot
1958-59 — Charles Owens
1959-60 — George Dowhaniuk
1960-61 — Gerry Fisher
1961-62 — Fred Begoray
1962-63 — Steve Sawchuk
1963-64 — Martin Russ
1964-65 — Francis Mitchell
1965-66 — Lloyd Bauer
1966-67 — Ernie Youzwishen
1967-68 — Bill Luhoway
1968-69 — Nestor Dowhaniuk

1969-70 — Stan Wilcox
1970-71 — Larry Ruptash
1971-72 — Mark Hlus
1972-73 — Ted Shavchook
1973-74 — Willis Hantiuk
1974-75 — Terry Semeniuk
1975-76 — Jim Ewanchuk
1976-77 — Gene Sakaluk
1977-78 — Harry Humeniuk
1978-79 — Bob Clark
1979-80 — Ron Horon

Life Members — Kinsmen Club of Vegreville

Terry Soldan
Sandy Eliuk
Lloyd Bauer
Ed Kiefiuk

Awards and Projects

Boake Efficiency — 1968-1969; 1969-1970; 1970-1971; 1971-1972; 1972-1973; 1976-1977
National Expansion Award — 1970-1971; 1971-1972; 1976-1977.
District Four Dist. Gov. Attendance Trophy — 1970-1971.
Founders Club Attendance Sr. — 1970-1971.
100% Achievement Award — 50th Anniversary Project.
District Four Wainwright Curling Trophy — 1969-1970; 1976-1977.
Kinsmen Hong Kong Village — World Council Project — 1972-1973.
International Relations Project — 1972-1973.
Bloody Good Kinsmen Club — 1971-1972; 1972-1973.
District Four Deputy Gov. — 1972-1973, Larry Ruptash; 1975-1976, Nestor Dowhaniuk; 1977-1978, Mark Hlus.

Means of Revenue: Kinsmen Car Award, Kinsmen Radio Auction, Kinsmen Grey Cup Pool, Kinsmen Christmas Trees, Kinsmen Elimination Dance.
Kinsmen Activities: Sponsor a Child-Canadian Save the Children Fund, Minor Hockey Association, Vegreville Boy Scouts-Sponsoring body, Christmas Treats for Local School Children, Awards to Deserving Children — Vegreville Schools, Build and Equip Playgrounds, Assist at Red Cross Blood Donor Clinics, Conduct Canvass — T.B. Seals, Instruction — Pedal Pusher, Donation of Radios and T.V.'s to Local Hospital, Heritage Park, Participark, Business Men's Appreciation Breakfast, Cystic-Fibrosis, Vegreville Golf Course

Contributions to the Community Since 1938

Playgrounds, parks and pool; Recreation center
Golf course and shelter
Cystic Fibrosis
Heritage Park
T. B. Seals
Treats and Hallowe'en shellouts
Pedal Pushers, baseball, hockey and minor sports
Boy Scouts
Hospital Wards — Radio and T.V.
Businessmen's breakfast
Senior Citizens
Vegreville Kindergarten
Boy Scout breakfasts
Girl Guides
Camp He Ho Ha
School Awards
Milk for Britain
Band
Heritage Day luncheon
Curling Club renovations
Red Cross
Dr. Cairns School
National Institute of Mental Retardation
Save the Children
Vegreville Library and Film Library
United Nations Seminar
National Building Fund
Community floats, Vegreville Jaycees
Christmas Bureau, CNIB, Radio Auction
N.A.C.C., Campella, Hong Kong Project,
Emergency Measures Organization
TOTAL — contributions approx. — \$135,000.00

1st Vegreville Boy Scouts contributed by Bonnie Warawa

Scouting in Vegreville has a history almost as lengthy as that of the town itself. Although it was not until June 12 of 1914 that the Boy Scouts of Canada was incorporated by an Act of Parliament, the Reverend Richmond H. Burge, a minister of the Anglican Church, organized the first troop in Vegreville in 1911. Assisted by J. G. Balfour, he welcomed boys from the ages of eleven to seventeen into the club. Meetings were held on Monday and Friday evenings at 7:30 in an old building located under the water tower. The first camp-out was a week long event held near Sick Man Lake.

By December of 1913, the Vegreville troop, then led by George S. Brinton, consisted of twenty-three boys between the ages of eleven and sixteen.

From 1914 to 1925, it appears that Scouting in Vegreville suffered a lapse, no doubt due to the war and subsequent disruption. However, in 1925, Scouts



Scouts, 1939. (L. to r.) — J. Hurlburt, P. Schultz, A. Horton, K. Crockett, R. Dutka, J. Horton, C. Achison.



Boy Scouts camping at Sickman Lake, July, 1914.



The Boy Scout Troop, 1911. Front row (l. to r.) — Frank Weldon, Clarence Force, Willis Tierney, Andy Stewart, Glenn Trump, Bert Cunningham, A. W. (Buster) Shaw, Fred Mitchell, Leo Tierney, Dick Bord. Second row (l. to r.) — unknown, Roy Davis (with hat), Earl Stewart, Clarence Rodgers, Marshall Holden. Third row (l. to r.) — W. Nikiforuk, Herb Shaw (kneeling), Frank Fane (standing with stick), Bill Thompson, Bill Cunningham, Rev. R. A. Burge (Scoutmaster).

were organized once again, with Dr. L. C. Watson as Scoutmaster.

In 1928, an important figure in the history of Scouting in Vegreville arrived in the town. Mr. T. M. Bennett (better known as “Beaver”) became the Scoutmaster in that year and remained in that position for 36 years until 1964. Mr. Bennett was born in Chudleigh in England and came to Edmonton in



Beaver Bennett and Vegreville Scouts going to Coldfield, England, for World Jamboree, 1957. (L. to r.) — R. Fajaros, W. Zuk, R. Krewusick, R. Frederking.



Official Opening of the Beaver Bennett Scout Hut, about 1957. Top row (l. to r.) — Chauffeur for J. J. Bowlen, R. Goshko, visitor from Scout headquarters, J. Matthews, M. Craddock. Front row (l. to r.) — A. Mandryk, Beaver Bennett, Lieutenant-Governor J. J. Bowlen, K. Zuk, B. Holloway-Scout Headquarters, A. Gordey.

1906. He had been a Scoutmaster in Edmonton for fourteen years before coming to Vegreville. Beaver Bennett’s first Scout troop in Vegreville consisted of five boys: Russell Goshko, Ralph Hayter, Morty Milner, Bill Morton and Fred Reid. Scout meetings



(l. to r.) — Scouts Bobby Frederking, Bill Zuk, Bobby Krewusick, Roger Fajaros. (Middle) — “Beaver” Bennett — Scoutmaster — All set to go to World Zamboree in England, 1957.

were held in the upstairs of the old town hall until 1957 when, with Mr. Bennett's initiative, the old cottage school was acquired, refurnished, and named 'The Beaver Bennett Scout Hut.' This building was used until it was demolished ca. 1962 at which time Scout meetings were moved to the Centennial Building.

An excerpt from Beaver Bennett's Scout handbook (circa 1932) gives an indication of the enthusiasm of Scouts of that era. The author, Dan Beard, begins: "I feel that the boys will be glad to know that I have devised a new stunt for the Council Fire . . . Conceal [the Scouts dressed as] dancers behind what looks like a hedge of growing shrubbery and as the time approaches they take advantage of every interval when the audience's attention is attracted in some other direction to creep up a bit closer to the dancing space. As the signal is given, with a wild yell, they cast aside their ambush and the naked painted savages suddenly spring from nowhere and rush out upon the startled crowd and begin their dance." Mr. Beard adds, "This will need some good rehearsals to be really effective."

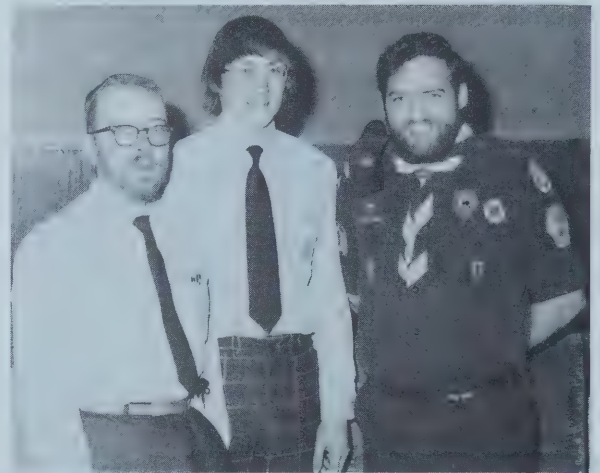
Although initially the Scouting movement involved only one organization, worldwide interest soon necessitated further development. In Vegreville this was reflected in the establishment of the Wolf Cubs in June of 1930 with Mrs. Hinde becoming the Cubmaster. Her first pack consisted of four boys: Peter Schultz, Walter Zaseybida, Rudy Dutka, and Charles Acheson.

Venturers was introduced in 1967 to attract the

interest of older boys. Alex Elder was the first Venturer advisor and the original six boys involved were Terry Beaudette, Cam Cole, John Demco, Brent King, Doug Soldan and Leslie Klutz.

In 1974, Beavers commenced in Vegreville, providing activities for boys from five to seven years of age. The first seven boys who participated, under the direction of Joyce Stewart, were Craig Kitteringham, Kelly and Kevin Husky, Quentin Russ, Darcy Beaudette, Kevin Cherney, and Darren Bohaychuk.

In recent years, Scouts and Venturers from Vegreville have travelled great distances to participate in national and international jamborees. In 1957, Beaver Bennett himself accompanied four boys to a World Jamboree in Coldfield, England; Ed Zuk and



Carl Grosfield, Brent King, Frazer McDougall, 1970. Brent attended World Jamboree that year in Japan, as a Venturer Advisor.



Dr. and Mrs. Fred Reid after receiving a plaque in recognition of their contributions to Scouting over the years, early 1970's.



Zenon Onushko, Helene Freed, Robin Nawrot, Alec Elder. Robin receiving donation towards expenses for World Jamboree in Australia, 1973.



Russ Shandro, Roger Russ, Carl Grosfield, Bob Lowrey, Harold Mori, Zenon Onushko — Presentation of a cheque from Lions' Club to help finance costs of sending Russ and Roger to World Jamboree in Japan, 1970.

John Reid went to Greece in 1963; Denis Bienvenu went to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania in 1964; Cameron Cole attended the 7th U.S.A. in Idaho in 1969; Russ Shandro and Roger Russ went to Japan for the 13th World Jamboree in 1971; Wally Walters went to Idaho in 1973; and in 1975 Alex Elder took Harold Baxandall, Brian Elder, Nelson Klymochko, and Robert Springs to Norway for the 14th World Jamboree. In addition to these, numerous Scouts have journeyed to various places in Canada so that they might join in the celebration of the Scouting movement.

Though many changes have occurred over the past years, Scouting continues to thrive in Vegreville. At present, more than one hundred boys are involved in the organization. With the continuing contribution of volunteer help from devoted parents and leaders, future success is ensured.

Vegreville Girl Guides and Brownies

Brownies and Guides started afresh in the thirties. The I.O.D.E. took care of the leadership at that time. Many girls went through the program. Winning the highest awards were such girls as Dr. Ross's daughter and more recently Lisa Edwards, Lori Stafford, Elana Kawulich, Susan Darling and Margaret Kawulich. This award was the Canada Cord. This year, 1979, the program has changed and we have ninety girls enrolled. There are two groups of Brownies, two companies of Girl Guides, one company of Pathfinders and one company of Rangers. In the most recent time, Mary Wilson was District Commissioner, then became Division Commissioner and later Area Commissioner. Then Darlene Stafford became a Division Commissioner and stayed in that position for several years. Presently Elsie Kawulich is the District Commissioner for 1979. This program



First Company Vegreville Girl Guides, 1915.



Irene Shaw and Stella Svarich - members of First Girl Guide Troop, cutting 50th Anniversary Birthday Cake, 1960.



Vegreville Girl Guides' 50th Anniversary, 1960.

is so much fun that both the girls and leaders have enjoyment together as well as learning together.

Girl Guides

Early Adventures In Guiding

by Irene Shaw

A company of Girl Guides was organized in Vegreville in 1915 under Miss Margaret Brinton as Captain and Miss Isabel Smith, her Lieutenant. Twenty-five girls were enrolled in three patrols. Whether we were ever officially registered under the Girl Guides Association I am not prepared to say, but a more ardent and enthusiastic Company would have been hard to find. We held regular meetings, studied the Manual and tried to put our training into practice.

Our uniforms, I'm sure, weren't strictly regulation. Money wasn't plentiful and extra expenditures were avoided. But after all, in that era, every girl practically grew up in a white middie blouse and a blue serge skirt (not blue jeans) so we declared the blouse and skirt as standard. When hiking or camping we went daringly forth in voluminous navy serge bloomers with elastic below the knee. Our hats were a far cry from the smart felt toppers worn today. Our mothers made them from navy cotton drill, using newspaper patterns. Some mothers were better milliners than others and the results were varied and wonderful to behold — something like a tea cosy with a stitched brim. That summer we held a church parade, then had our pictures taken, and our dressy appearance thus immortalized.

Our efforts in the field of journalism consisted of a monthly "magazine", written by hand in a 10¢ scribbler and having the grandiose name of "The Halyconion" — don't ask me why! Each patrol was responsible for producing one issue, and need I say that it lasted just three months!

World War I was raging in Europe and our contribution to the war effort consisted of knitted washcloths and bandages for the Red Cross.

The following summer we went to camp at Sick Man Lake. A few affluent fathers with cars were dragged into transporting us and a couple of farmer-fathers brought our tents and stove. Arriving in late afternoon with ominous storm clouds piling up, the car drivers turned quickly towards town knowing that twelve miles of dirt road lay ahead. A quick picnic supper and hasty efforts to assemble tents meant a mad scramble with unfamiliar equipment.

A gallant knight in the person of the Scoutmaster from the camp farther up the lake came to our rescue; a tall, thin, purposeful young man with a high scholarly forehead and heavy glasses. With hatchet in hand he drove tent pegs and tightened guy ropes to combat the rising wind and imminent rainstorm. By

this time it was dark under the trees and our helpful friend, bending low to his task, swung his hatchet too vigorously and almost scalped himself. Hasty first aid was rendered and he made light of his injuries but I wager the scar was permanent.

When the storm broke we were safely under canvas until about 2:00 a.m. when one tent collapsed to enshroud the "Lily Patrol" in a welter of wet canvas, so with shrieks and giggles they crowded into the other two tents, much to our discomfort. With water seeping under the edges, our straw mattresses and bedding became very uncomfortable. At last came the welcome dawn and we had survived our first night at camp.

It would have taken more than an occasional rainstorm to dampen our spirits but one girl was a bit irked by the patch adorning the flap of our old tent. Bearing the time-ordered slogan of Windsor Salt, the faded lettering still showed, "When it rains it pours." Aiming a vicious kick at it she was heard to say, "As if we didn't know!"

The lake was our chief delight and we swam or paddled twice a day, rowed our old boat and built bonfires every evening. Our navy jersey bathing suits, the bikinis of 1915, covered us modestly from neck to knee but were considered quite dashing.

Having been taught the rudiments of first-aid-to-the-drowning we got our first opportunity to practice them when one of our members stumbled in about four feet of water and fell headlong. Hastily we dragged her ashore, turned her face down and set to work. With everyone trying to get into the act, our well-meaning efforts were a bit too rugged. With a sudden surge of vitality, the poor girl wriggled eel-like from our clutching hands, flopped over, flailing wildly with arms and legs. Spluttering through a mouthful of wet sand she screamed at us to leave her alone. She'd rather drown than have her ribs caved in. So leave her alone we did, though somewhat miffed at having lost such an opportunity to practice artificial respiration. Without us she recovered rapidly.

The week was soon over and camp broken up. Not all the lessons learned were in the Manual but we had learned to live and work and laugh together under conditions which today would seem primitive indeed.

Such was "Guiding" in Vegreville when we and the Century were in their teens. Peering down the vista of years through one's bifocals, the details tend to blur and disappear but certain highlights of incidents and personalities shine clear. Our Company later dissolved and was absorbed into a Junior Red Cross Club but treasured memories and a few enduring friendships remain.

Brush Hill Baseball History

by Mary Jane and Keith Steinbach

Brush Hill's first organized baseball team came about in the early 1920's. The team was made up of farm boys from around the area. Practices were held on what is now Clarence Miskiw's farm (N½-15-53-14-W4) a mile from the Brush Hill school. The horse and buggy were the main means of transportation, so attending all the games and practices can be considered quite a feat now-a-days.

Each hamlet in the district had its own team and its own Sunday picnic where baseball was played. As a result every Sunday in the summer was filled with picnic lunches and baseball.

Equipment was scarce in those days (just like money) and usually hand-made. Baseballs were re-sewn and used again and again. Some players like Adolph Gafka made their own bats. Adolph's bat, which lasted for years, was quite popular with the other players because of its reputation for sending the ball a long way. Baseball gloves were scarce, and many, like the late Frank Emery, did not use a glove. Catchers were the only exception. Albert Gafka's first glove was home-made with a beefsteak inside for extra padding. Shin pads were not used, only pants that were padded from the knee to the thigh. Uniforms were not matched in the early days.

The Brush Hill team gradually built up a reputation as the team to beat at all the district tournaments.

Some of the old time players included in this team were — Harold Babcock, Rod Dunn, Adolph Gafka, Doc Hosking, Eddie Lank, Aden Flack, Roy Barklay, Jake Gafka, Henry Borgens, Sherbart Querengesser, Philip Gafka, Jack Steinbach, Clarence Lank, Seraphine Hartman, Floyd Emery, Frank Emery.



Brush Hill Baseball Club, 1945. Front row (l. to r.) — Herman Gafka, Cecil Bradshaw, F. Frederking, Yvon Bienvenue. Middle row — Bill Hohn, Jake Gafka, George Black, John Teare, Leo Steinbach. Back row — Clarence Steinbach, Algie Lank, Walter Campbell, Ernie Campbell, Daniel Bradshaw.

Although there are very few of these oldtimers left alive, we have learned that Jack Steinbach, Rod Dunn, Adolph Gafka, Jake Gafka, Doc Hosking and Eddie Lank coached the team at one time or another during these years.

In 1929 George (Doc) Hosking came to the district as a school teacher. He soon earned the respect of the school children and it was from him that the boys learned baseball as it should be played. He instilled in the boys a love of baseball. He taught them the basics as well as some of the finer points of the game.

They played ball before school, at recess, noon and after school. Some of the children came to school at 7:00 a.m. to get in some baseball before the bell rang. After a few years "Doc" had a first-rate young ball team on his hands. They travelled to neighboring schools for games and they won more than they lost.

In the early 1930's the team got their first set of matched uniforms. This came about when they won a two-day tournament at Minburn. The \$75.00 prize money was given to the team that had been the butt of many jokes around the tournament. There were many comments about their poorly dressed appearance but many were silenced after they had seen the team play. The final game of the tournament was put in jeopardy when the starting pitcher, Harry Petruk, was knocked unconscious in warm up by a throw from first baseman, Eddie Lank. He was revived and pitched the final game. They still say that Harry wouldn't have won that game if he hadn't been hit on the head!!!

Some of the players in the Minburn tournament were — John Teare, Algie, Leslie and Eddie Lank, Albert Gafka, Ray Steinbach, Harry Petruk, Bill Hohn, Wilbur Jones, Walter Gafka.

Jake Gafka coached the ball team from the mid 1930's until it was disbanded in 1951. During this time practices were held in Philip Gafka's pasture (now owned by Leo Dziwenko) and the team travelled near and far to games and tournaments. They played at the Saddle Lake invitational tournaments, also in Two Hills on July 12th. They travelled to Lloydminster, Dewberry, Elk Point, Vermilion, Vegreville, Chipman, Mundare, Willingdon, Mannville and Minburn for games and tournaments. These were the years when the team was most active. Black Motors sponsored the team for a few years, then Thomas Garage took over the sponsorship. Some of the players who played on the "new" team were: — Bill and Marshall Severyn, Dave Hohn, Ernest Didier, Bill Ewasiuk, Gordon Fraser, Dave Berezon, August Hohn, Walter Gafka, John Hantiuk, Carey and Norman McGowan, Mike Pipella, Leonard Frederking, Ernie and Walter Campbell, Bill Hohn, Steve Berezon, Paul Stewart, Herman

Gafka, Gordon and Willard Chappell, Buster and Bud Bradshaw, Clarence, Leo and Ray Steinbach, Yvon Bienvenue, Eddie and Clarence Miskiw, John Misik, Eddie Merkel, Dave Rattray, Wes Hughston, Rienhold Merkel, Gordon McIntosh.

There are literally dozens of stories and anecdotes to be told about the Brush Hill Baseball Club. Some of them can't be put to paper but the following are a few the players remember: —

- Getting lost in a rain storm coming home from Saddle Lake and arriving home at 7:30 a.m. to go to work.
- An RCMP constable waking up in barracks the morning after with painted red fingernails and toenails after a baseball party.
- The group of very vocal fans led by Elsie Gafka and Vi Frederking who followed the club to tournaments.
- Playing the 1944 season without losing a game.
- Leslie Lank trying to keep Laskey's car running on a muddy trip home from Saddle Lake.
- A hostile home crowd causing an unfair umpire to flee into the stands at a Vermilion tournament.
- The delicious food served at the wind-up suppers at Jake Gafka's every year.

We acknowledge the following for their contributions: Eddie Lank, Bill Hohn, Albert Gafka and Bud Bradshaw.

Vegreville Square Dance Club

by Margaret Ziegler

It was in the fall of 1952 that the Vegreville Lions Club decided to initiate a Square Dance movement in Vegreville and hired Ross and Laural Haynes from Edmonton to instruct a class in October of that year. Following the six nights of lessons, October 22, an executive was formed consisting of:

President — Ray Lawson

1st Vice President — Leon Cherot

Secretary — Adele Koshuta

Treasurer — Jack Buckley

Pop concession — Harry Vinsky

Director — Trudy Cumming

Dance Chairman — Ken Stuparek.

The previously-suggested name for the organization was the Vegreville Chain Gang, and it was approved and accepted at this time. This group was to be a non-profit organization formed to create better aims in community relationships.

Two more classes were taught in Vegreville in 1953, one in February and one in April, by Ross and Laural Haynes, which meant that about 24 more squares of people had joined the Square Dance movement. Some of these people were out-of-town and later initiated the forming of square dance groups in

their particular area, such as Holden, Hairy Hill and Willingdon.

It was in the spring of 1953 that several people took Square Dance calling lessons in Vegreville, and it was from that time until today, 1979, that Arthur Ziegler, Square Dance caller, evolved. In 1954



Arthur and Margaret Ziegler at Lloydminster Chain 'N Circle Square Dance Club 25th Anniversary, April 1979.



Preparing Arthur Ziegler's tonsils — to be Master of Ceremonies at the Annual Penticton Peach Festival in 1964. (l. to r.) — Elsie Barrit, Brian Murdoch, and Len High — all were MCs on different nights that year.

Arthur and Margaret started teaching classes, and Arthur handled the majority of the regular dances for the Vegreville Chain Gang. Square Dance hours were 8:30 to 11:30 and were always exactly that time. Dances were held every two weeks for about twenty years, and since then square dancing has been rather spasmodic in Vegreville. In 1957 the name was changed to the Vegreville Jolly Mixers.

Many Square Dance Jamborees (more than one caller) were held, usually in April, with callers such as Arthur Ziegler, Henry Lien of Bawlf, Harold Schacker of Bawlf, and Ken Waring of Rivercourse, in the Peter Svarich school auditorium.

The square dance season runs from October to May for regular dances, with many special dances throughout the country during the summer months. There are Square Dance Clubs in 1979 at Bruce, Hairy Hill, Therien, Lloydminster, Blackfoot, Edgerton, Wainwright, and Unity, Saskatchewan, — all of which Arthur Ziegler calls for occasionally or regularly. There are many days to remember, many trips to reminisce with nostalgia, and a multitude of friendly people met through the Square Dance Calling engagements of Arthur and Margaret Ziegler. During his 26 years of calling Arthur has drawn crowds at home and in neighbouring provinces when he handled dances as far away as Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Vernon, and Chetwynd, British Columbia; and Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina, Saskatchewan.

Others who figured prominently in the success of the Jolly Mixers by accepting their term as president were:

Leon Cherot — 1953-54

Bert Mather — 1954-55

Art McCarty — 1955-56

Orest Fodchuk — 1956-57

Claire Ziegler — 1957-58, 1958-59

Berton Ziegler — 1959-60

Ernie Merkel — 1960-61

Elizabeth Durie

John Sanford

Gwen Larson.

Iris Mast spent a great deal of time writing up the minutes as she was Secretary for the 1954-55, 1955-56, and 1960-61 seasons. Bill and Helen Spence visited other clubs as they travelled with Arthur and Margaret Ziegler on Calling engagements from about 1957 to 1962; and until his retirement and move from Vegreville, Bill enjoyed dancing with all the Square Dance Clubs in the area.

There are those who have come to accept square dancing as a major part of their lives, who are stimulated by the activity and warmed by the friendships, and plan to continue.

Moscow Hall

by A. W. Tymchuk

About 1918, in the Moscow district, a predominantly Ukrainian area approximately ten miles south of Mundare, a group of people organized the Cultural and Educational Society in the name of M. Drahmaninow and registered it under the Societies Act.

It all started when a group of young men began getting together at the Moscow School teacherage when Harry Kostash was teacher. Sunday afternoon was a good gathering time. Dances heretofore were held in homes and, in summer, in granaries. This gathering of young people initiated the idea of a hall — an assembly. Consequently the Society was formed. The Executive of the newly-formed Society approached the trustees for permission to use the school for community functions or activities, provided they did not interfere with school work. The use of the school in the evenings and on week-ends was granted.

First, dances were put on to raise money for a national hall. About 1919, the first Ukrainian play was put on, when Mr. Genik was the schoolteacher, a very patient man. The actors were local amateur people. The title of the play was “Thou Shalt Not Love Two.” Mr. Genik provided the instruction and impetus.

In 1920, just before Easter, the first big concert was put on, again with local talent, and the teacher who provided the leadership was Mike Goshko.

The schoolhouse was always filled to capacity when the Society sponsored dances, concerts, plays, debates, councillor reports, basket socials, political meetings, etc. Some of the events brought in a sizable amount of money.

The makeshift platform in the school provided a stage for better viewing.

Then there came a time when the School Board felt that the school was not the proper place for many of the functions. This prompted the building of a national hall. At the last meeting held in the school, a building committee was chosen with Peter Tymchuk as president, M. A. Powley secretary, and Mike Zagrosh treasurer. M. A. Powley, also a builder, calculated the amount of material required.

A carload of lumber was ordered direct from a B.C. mill. Just before spring work, a bee was organized to haul the lumber to the building site. Two acres on the N.E. corner of NE 33-51-16W4, acquired from Roy Babyn, became the hall location - a good well-drained site. To claim the carload of lumber, cash had to be provided but the local purse was rather thin. Peter Tymchuk, who had just sold a carload of wheat, bailed out the Society. He had originally set aside that money for his spring farming

operation. After spring work the farmers got together and put up the hall within one month. By the end of July the hall was ready for use. M. A. Powley supervised the construction.

Later, when the club made more money they got more land, levelled the grounds and seeded them to grass. In the late forties, Mike Misiuk donated five acres of land in the N.W. corner of the NW 34-51-16W4, and the parcel was used for picnics and baseball.

The Moscow Hall was the first one built in the rural area in this part of the province. Very few of the original members and builders are around. Many of the other halls built later have either disappeared or fallen into disuse because of lack of support due to the dwindling farm population and the increased use of the family car. But Moscow Hall still exists. The original hall, 46 feet by 28 feet, has had several additions in the past. When the rural schools were being closed up, due to the advent of the school bus, the hall committee bought one Moscow School building and used the lumber to build an addition — to provide a kitchen and dining space on the south side of the hall. The installation of waterworks was a great convenience, especially for the hard-working ladies.

The plays put on in the hall required much training and a lot of costumes. Anna Tymchuk, wife of Peter Tymchuk, and her daughter Ann made many of the costumes. Some of the costumes were donated by members who had brought them from the Ukraine. Plays did not call for any sophistication in leadership, but to put on a concert, the hall required a conductor or director. One such person was John Sokolow who worked in the Kieryluk Store in Vegreville. In 1924 his concert at Moscow Hall was a big success.

Around 1937 Russel Goshko took on the responsibility of teaching a concert to commemorate the Ukrainian bard, Taras Shevchenko. The performance was enjoyed by all. About 1939, Tony Savich, a local schoolteacher, spearheaded a concert for Mother's Day. Perhaps this was the last concert put on by local talent.

Of course, many Moscow School Christmas concerts were held in Moscow Hall. All children, grades one to ten, took part and put on a good performance for their parents. The Christmas tree, Santa Claus, and gifts were the highlight for the children.

In the fall the Thanksgiving Supper was an occasion that brought out many people. Home-made bread, baked in an outside oven, was a delicacy that everybody enjoyed. The supper was followed by a dance.

Joe Nozak and his Music Makers supplied the

dance music for a very long time. Joe was a pro on his fiddle.

The annual community picnic provided an opportunity for socializing and for raising the much-needed funds to operate the hall.

A farmers' organization, the United Farmers of Alberta, started about the same time the hall was built. The group held many meetings to discuss the economic plight of the farmers. A. M. Matheson was elected U.F.A. - M.L.A. in 1921, representing the Vegreville provincial constituency. He held the position till 1935. M. Luchkowich was elected M.P. for the federal riding in 1926 and served at Ottawa till 1935, when the Social Credit Party decimated other party ranks in Alberta. Later the U.F.A. became the A.F.U. — Alberta Farmers' Union.

When the Alberta Wheat Pool began organizing in 1923, the farmers held meetings in the Moscow Hall. Discussion centered around better marketing and handling facilities and stable prices for farm products. Many local farmers became original members of the Pool. Fifty years later, the original members were honored and were presented plaques at the anniversary celebration.

The biggest celebration was the 50th Anniversary of the Hall Society. Greetings were given by the first president, Peter Tymchuk, who was 87 years old at that time, and by the first secretary, M.A. Powley. Those were very touching words. The writer of this article gave a lengthy report on the history of the M. Drahmaninow Ukrainian Cultural Society.

By supporting their hall with dedication and industry, the Moscow district pioneers were instrumental in adding a cultural dimension to their otherwise rugged existence.

Ukrainian National Hall by Stella Svarich

The first Ukrainian National Hall in Vegreville, named Institute of Taras Shevchenko, was opened May 24, 1914. All Vegreville Ukrainians belonged to it for social purposes until in the 1920's a three-way split occurred, which resulted in the Ukrainian Orthodox group buying the Ukrainian National Hall in which their church services were held until St. Vladimir's Greek Orthodox church was built in 1934.

The Ukrainian Catholic group had built their small Holy Trinity Church earlier.

The third group built a hall named Ukrainian Labour Temple which today is owned by the Elk's Lodge #143.

On May 24, 1958, to make way for a new hall to be built on the same place, the first Ukrainian National Hall was moved to the Vegreville Exhibition grounds, and used there as a Dining Hall for catering by the Orthodox Women's group during the



Drama and Choir, at National Hall, 1922. Front row (l. to r.) — Madeline Melnyk, Stella Porayko, Pearl Steblyk. Second row — Mary Skoropad, Emily Molchan, Dorothy Ruryk, Elias Porayko (choirmaster), Cathy Lemiski, Josephine Molchan, Sophie Cherniawsky. Third row — Annie Poohkay, George Makowichuk, Peter Nestoruk, Peter Svarich, John Kuzz, Ms. Strynadka, Mary Svarich. Back row — J. Showkoples, Mr. Petryga, Nick Kuzz, Simon Sysak, Nick Porayko, John Ruryk.



Ukrainian Women Members of the Vegreville National Hall, late 1920's. Front row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Martha Nykyforuk, Mary Lemiski, Mrs. Skory, Lena Zaseybida, Sophie Luchkovich, Lena Dalavrak. Middle row — Mrs. Sysak, Mrs. Woroschuk, Mrs. Prystupa, Mrs. Muzyka, Mrs. T. Fedoruk, Mrs. T. Lemiski. Top row — Mrs. Fedorki, Mrs. A. Svarich, Mrs. Stella Porayko, Mrs. Wapman, Mrs. Petasky, Mrs. Wm. Kieryliuk.

Vegreville Exhibition. After several years it again was moved to the farm of John Bohaychuk south of Vegreville, and used as a shelter for animals. Finally, what was left of the building was then burned.

Many things are forgotten as time marches on, yet friendships formed in times of youth are never forgotten when good friends meet.

These are the things that keep our hearts warm and our minds alert and young again.

The Ukrainian National Hall in 1914 was a place of learning for culture, and also a place for pleasure. A place for weddings and a place for funerals — when the necessity arose. So many social gatherings, lectures, debates, concerts, numerous plays and choir rehearsals provided opportunities for communication and interchange of human feelings. To young minds not only beauty was revealed but also realization of responsibilities in life and an eagerness for freedom lacking in sparse associations, especially on farms where most came from. In those early times parents were in greater control of their

maturing progenies. Age of indiscriminate moral abandon had not yet sneaked into public, as it did later when parents became more preoccupied and busy with attaining high materialistic standards of living. In the fall of 1914 many young Ukrainian students came from various country schools to the Town of Vegreville to continue their education in Vegreville High School.

With the influx of immigrants to Canada, the government had complied with their needs, and in 1912 established the "English School for Foreigners" in Vegreville, for ethnic boys to live in and study, especially those with higher education in the old country but who lacked English language necessary in Canada. Naturally they all socialized at the Ukrainian National Hall. The majority of these Ukrainian students proved favourable in every aspect in their deportment, ambition, obligations and brains. Within twenty years Ukrainians in Canada proved their worth as well-qualified teachers, doctors, lawyers, tradesmen and politicians. Canada was their country. They loved it. Proof of this loyalty was exhibited when thousands of Ukrainian boys joined in the wars of this century in support of Canada's effort to remain free.

Young people then, as at all times, loved to congregate and have a good time. Dances were frequent. A violin or two and a drum, as an orchestra, was never scorned. Amongst students alone girls were



Students of Ukrainian School at National Hall, 1928. Top row (l. to r.) — Eddie Kieryliuk, R. Nykyforuk, T. Nykyforuk. Third row — Helen Svarich, Alice Svarich, Elsie Kieryliuk, Phyllis Nykyforuk, Anne Cherniawsky, Anne Ropchan. Second row — Helen Lemiski, Eugene Lemiski, Prystupa, Elias Porayko (teacher), Bob Svarich, Tommy Petasky, Prystupa, Vera Svarich. Front row — unknown, Helen Kieryliuk, A. Bohaychuk, M. Bohaychuk, M. Prystupa, Mary Zaseybida, Jennie Fódchuk, Poohkay, Marion Fodchuk.

outnumbered by men. There were no wall-flowers amongst the girls. Everybody danced. Between dances there were sing-songs.

At a basket-social ladies prepared pretty baskets filled with lunch which each owner shared with the gentleman who bought it at an auction sale held during the dance. Ownership of the basket auctioned was kept secret. This always enticed the men to bid



Members of Vegreville branch of Ukrainian Women's Association (1974), affiliated with St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, with their parish priest Right Rev. Fr. Turzansky and Mrs. Zina Turzansky. Front row only (l. to r.) - Msdmes Martha Nykyforuk, Phyllis Pawliuk, Anne Zaharia, Helen Melnychuk, Zina Turzansky, Rt. Rev. Fr. Turzansky, Pearl Berezon, Helen Lynkowski, E. Rawliuk, Anne Soldan, Mrs. Melnychuk, Stella Svarich, Mrs. Zubresky.



Vegreville Ukrainian National Hall, opened May 24, 1914. (l. to r.) — Julia (Fedoruk) Kuzyk, Annie (Svarich) Gregory, Nancy (Melnik) Ruryk, Stella (Melnik-Porayko) Svarich.

higher against each other and enrich the coffers. One young student who was sweet on Rosie, was confident he knew her basket and determined to get it. He outbid all rivals to the tune of twelve dollars (an enormous sum for a student those days). Someone knew the basket belonged to an elderly widow and this provided much hilarity during the auction. It was all fun even for the lover.

New Year's dances were special occasions. A young doctor who had come from Eastern Canada dogged Dot's footsteps and asked her to accompany him to this festive occasion. She agreed. To his question "Was it formal or informal?" — she wasn't quite sure which was which — she answered, "Formal, of course". And so he arrived well dressed; a starched shirt front, a stiff high collar, a tail-coat and striped pants, patent oxfords, high top hat and a cane. As the two entered the hall it was a revelation to him. No one was dressed like he was dressed. He danced a dance with Dot and disappeared. Some said he had an emergency call.

Then there was John who was an excellent actor in local plays but who never memorized his role. It exasperated Peter, the prompter. One time after Peter's prompting went unheeded, he decided to humiliate John and became silent. John held the pitch fork in his hands (in his role he was making hay) and babbled unrelated nothings. Then, with pitchfork in a menacing position, he made for the prompter's box as though to pitch-fork Peter. Peter shouted loudly, "Stop, stop, are you crazy?" John leaned over, smoothing the tines of the fork, and whispering from the side of his mouth, "Tell me, tell me, quick? Tell me the lines." The public enjoyed this.

Park Grove Community Centre

In June of 1952 the residents of Park Grove area

held a meeting to discuss the formation of a community centre in order to purchase the school which was no longer needed for classes. The decision to do this was made and the following executive was elected —

President — Mr. George Ziegler

Vice-President — Mr. George Ferguson

Secretary-Treasurer — Mr. John Nicholson

Directors — Harold Fuller, Wm. Ziegler, C. E. Cunningham, Arthur Ziegler, Mike Schultz.

Other original family members included — Charles Fuller, Wm. Nicholson, John Ziegler, Albert Gafka, Herb Walker, Berton Ziegler, Gordon Ziegler, Henry Ziegler, Ken Ferguson, Len Ferguson, Gordon Brennan, Roy Fuller, John Lowe, Leonard Timanson and Lorne Cunningham.

Membership fees were set at \$1.00 per family. Electricity was installed in early 1954. The Farm Women's Union of Alberta Park Grove Local donated \$200.00 towards the project.

Card parties, dances, bingos, and an annual picnic were held over the years to raise money to support the centre. The Junior F.U.A. held their meetings there and donated chairs to the centre, as well as having a plug-in installed at the back of the hall.

In 1958 ceiling tile and wallboard were installed by local volunteers. This enhanced the building very much. More chairs were purchased in 1960. Two tables with collapsible legs were built. A large coffee urn was purchased in 1965. This same year, a grant of \$800.00 was received from the provincial government. It was used to paint the outside of the hall, repair the roof, grade and improve the approach to the road. The next year more outdoor lighting was installed and two more tables were built.

Wood cutting bees have kept the centre supplied with fuel, along with the purchase of coal.

Again in 1975 another grant of \$700.00 was received. This time a bee to reshingle the roof proved most successful. The entry way was renovated and a new door installed.

The men's farm group has met here once a month for years. Along with teas, showers, and anniversary parties, the centre has been a real asset to the community.

Park Grove United Farmers of Alberta Farmers Union of Alberta Unifarm

"A meeting of the farmers of the Park Grove district was held in the school house for the purpose of deciding as to the advisability of organizing a U.F.A. local (United Farmers of Alberta)".

The above is a direct quotation from the minutes of a meeting held on December 9, 1926. S. A. San-

ford was elected Chairman and Robert Wilson, secretary. Other Charter members were as follows: W. G. Scritsmier, Wm. Davis, John Ziegler, S. Sanford, E. D. Parker, Oliver Campbell, Charles Fuller, Ed Cunningham, Robert Dewart, H. Ziegler, Bert Cunningham, R. B. Campbell, Elmer Meyer, Ormie Trimble, W. Campbell, A. E. Jennings, John Lowe, Don Cameron, A. E. Langridge, John Jennings, H. McCleery, Wm. Cunningham and Stewart Kitto.

July 18, 1927 —H. T. Payne attended the meeting offering twine at cost price to the Group.

July 4, 1928 —The twine was purchased through Roy Barkley. The price being \$12.75 for 550 feet and \$13.34½ for 600 feet.

The meetings were held fairly regularly until June of 1933. Then the organization was dormant until January 13, 1945 when it was reorganized with S. A. Sanford, president and Robert Wilson, secretary. Minutes of the meetings all through this time had two common themes: one was finding delegates to attend conventions and the other was ways to raise money.

January 28, 1950 —A motion was passed to change the name from United Farmers of Alberta to Farmers Union of Alberta. This was changed again in 1970 to Unifarm.

April 25, 1950 —George Ziegler gave an outline of the proposed Seed Cleaning Plant.

January 12, 1954 —A motion was passed that meetings be held on the first Tuesday of each month. This tradition is still followed today.

December 7, 1954 —A motion was passed that the meetings be held at the Community Centre instead of in private homes and that ten cents per member be collected from each member to pay for coffee.

January 8, 1957 —A motion was passed to sponsor a meeting on Artificial Insemination.

February 14, 1962 —Rural Fire Protection was discussed and all present indicated a willingness to purchase shares in such a venture.

October 3, 1967 —Power went off ending the meeting.

It should be noted that the above three organizations all started in Park Grove and many members spent a good deal of time in these endeavors for the benefit of many in the Vegreville area.

Presidents

S. A. Sanford	1927-1928-1929
C. W. Campbell	1930-1931
Stanley Sanford	1933-1945
Arthur Ziegler	1947
William Ziegler	1948-1953-1964-1974
Albert Gafka	1949
George Ferguson	1950-1973
Len Ferguson	1954-1955-1965-1966
Claire Ziegler	1956-1957
Gordon Brennan	1958
Gordon Ziegler	1959-1967
Harry Semotiuk	1960-1972
Robert Gregory	1961-1962
Harold Fuller	1963
Len Timanson	1968
Irvine Ashmore	1969-1976-1977-1978
Jim Durie	1970
Gail Trimble	1971
Clinton Ziegler	1975

Secretaries

Robert Wilson	1927 through 1933-1945
Harold Fuller	1947-1953
A. W. Payne	1948
K. T. Ferguson	1949-1950
A. Gafka	1952
Len Timanson	1954
O. Fedchuk	1955-1956-1957
R. W. Porayko	1958
Don Jacobson	1959
Elgin Ziegler	1960 till the present

Park Grove Women's Organizations

Women's Missionary Society — 1928-1940

— was formed in Park Grove in 1928 with Mrs. W. M. Cunningham as President, Mrs. Wilson as vice-president and Miss M. McCleery and Mrs. S. Kitto as Secretary and Treasurer. Activities were picnics, bazaars, plays, quilt-making and selling of Christmas cards. A major project was a chicken supper.

Red Cross Society — 1940-1945

W.M.S. disbanded and became Red Cross, with leaders the first year being Mrs. Aggie Ziegler and Mrs. R. Wilson. Besides doing Red Cross work the group planned picnics and had a Flower Committee to look after the ill. Meetings were held every two weeks. In 1943 a ditty bag was filled every month. Quilts were made, used clothing collected and food boxes packed. Other projects were sending seeds to England and writing to men overseas. In 1944 meetings were held only once a month and discharged veterans were given wallets.

Park Grove Ladies Auxiliary — 1945

The name of the group changed again with Mrs. Verna Nicholson as president. A "friendship" quilt was made with member names embroidered on the blocks. This quilt was raffled and won by Marguerite Ziegler. Red Cross work continued. Money was raised by a variety of projects including selling Easter

eggs, having card parties, box social and a cold chicken supper.

Park Grove Ladies Club — 1946

Mrs. Bill Ziegler was first president of the club under its new name. No membership fees were charged and donations were voluntary. Meetings were held in the homes the second Thursday of each month.

During this year a farewell tea was given for Mrs. Wilson and an autographed quilt presented.

The Sunshine Policy of "secret pals" was developed. Parcels were sent to Mrs. Cruikshank in Holland. Some money raised by projects was used to buy cups and saucers and spoons for the community.

In November, a very successful social evening was held to welcome many new neighbors.

Park Grove U.F.W.A. — 1947 and 1948

In January, 1947, the U.F.W.A. was organized under the guidance of Mrs. Torrie of Tofield with Mrs. Betty Lowe being president the first year. The group became farm orientated with quite a change in purpose and objectives, with bulletins and other information being received from head office. Delegates were sent to conventions and conferences, and a donation made to Farm Young People's Week.

Red Cross and Welfare work were continued. Knitting was done for Public Health nurses in Edmonton. Donations were made to cancer fund, B.C. Flood Relief, Vegreville hospital for a blood bank refrigerator and to the United Emergency Fund for Britain.

Money-making projects were varied and saucepans and jugs purchased for the community centre. Cookbooks were bought from central organization.

Park Grove F.W.U.A. — 1949-1970

In January, 1949, the U.F.A. and A.F.U. merged to form F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. Hence Park Grove's Women's Organization changed its name once again and became more business-like with a bank account opened in 1950 and a briefcase purchased for the secretary in 1953.

Community efforts continued with fifteen luncheon cloths, some potholders and tea towels and two folding tables made for Park Grove Community Centre and a guest book, stand and chair purchased for Homestead. In 1965 "work groups" were formed to take turns sponsoring events. Christmas concerts, potluck suppers, summer teas were held through the years.

Young people were sponsored to Farm Young People's Week and Gold Eye Camp and ladies to Farm Women's Week.

Red Cross work continued and in 1959, Aggie Ziegler and Fannie Ferguson were presented with certificates of merit.

In 1953 the Park Grove Junior F.U.A. was formed under the sponsorship of the F.W.U.A.

Handicraft was sent to the annual convention in 1954 and in 1953 we began sending items to the Vegreville Fair as well as making donations.

Three of our members were active in the district organizations: Jessie Ziegler, Glenna Steinbach and Mary Ferguson receiving a plaque for 25 years of service.

Women of Unifarm — November, 1970-

In November, 1970, at the Annual Convention the F.U.A. and the Alberta Federation of Agriculture amalgamated to form Unifarm and we became Park Grove Women of Unifarm. Local structure and objectives remained much the same and many of the usual activities carried on.

In 1971 we began to omit our July meeting and substitute an outing or tour instead.

In November, 1972, we celebrated our 25th anniversary as a farm organization and began to write up our history.

Park Grove Women of Unifarm — 25th Anniversary

The following is excerpts from a talk given by Betty Lowe at the 25th Anniversary in 1972:

It is certainly a privilege and a pleasure to be present at this important event — the 25th anniversary of the Park Grove Farm Women's Organization. At this time I'd like to thank you for your kind invitation to the banquet, I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

Times goes by so quickly that it really doesn't seem that it was that long ago since we organized. I have enjoyed reading through some of the old minute books. A lot of things have happened and there have been many changes. One of the changes has been the name of the group from United Farm Women of Alberta to the Farm Women's Union of Alberta to the Women of Unifarm.

Let's reminisce and start at the beginning —

In December 1946, at our last meeting of the year, our group decided to join an organization as we agreed it would be our advantage to do so. Some wanted a Women's Missionary Society, some the Women's Institute and others The United Farm Women's Organization. As we all were farmers' wives we felt we would benefit more by joining up with the U.F.W.A. I was to contact Mrs. Torrie of Tofield, the District Convenor, to help us and to ask her when it would be convenient for her to come. She answered by return mail and said it would be nice to organize in January and start the year out right! So we invited her to our January meeting; she came and we

organized our group and we elected our officers as follows —

President — Mrs. Lowe
Vice-President — Mrs. Roy Fuller
Secretary — Mrs. Arthur Ziegler
Treasurer — Mrs. Schultz
Directors — Mrs. Henry Ziegler
— Mrs. Edwin Cunningham
— Mrs. Fuller

Convenor for Flower Committee and to choose helper — Mrs. John Nicholson.

Mrs. Edward Sanford was nominated as a delegate to the convention in Calgary. Edward and Dorothy, Arthur and Margaret went to the convention.

By 1948 we had 25 active Farm Women with Grandma Cunningham as an honorary member. We donated to Care parcels, Cancer Fund, Red Cross, did sewing for the Vegreville hospital, helped our community center, sent young people to attend the Farm Young People's Week in Edmonton, sent some to camps, and have always sent a delegate to conferences and conventions.

On Thursday, May 6, 1948, we had a joint meeting at the home of Mrs. Edward Sanford in Lavoyle with the Ranfurly F.W.U.A. to plan the district conference we were having in Vegreville on June 4, 1948.

This conference was a real success and I'd like to read the article that was in the paper about it.
United Farm Women Held District Conference — 1948

The Vegreville Constituency of United Farm Women of Alberta met in a one-day conference in the Legion Hall, Vegreville, on Friday, June 4th.

Mrs. A. Torrie of Tofield, our constituency director, presided. The morning session was taken up with reports and business. There were five visiting friends from Vegreville and thirty-one ladies enjoyed a banquet at the Alberta Hotel at noon.

In the afternoon session we had a very forceful and thought-provoking address on "Hesitation of Democracy," by Rev. H. A. Cantleon. Miss Grace Horbay, District Home Economist, gave us a very interesting talk on her work with girls' clubs, and Mrs. M. E. Lowe of St. Albert, our provincial president, brought us up-to-date on the progress being made in several departments of our organization. In all, it was an enjoyable and profitable day.

Incidentally, the price of the noon meal was 75¢.

It is also interesting to note that Mrs. Kathleen Taylor of Wainwright, a long-term director of the United Farm Women of Alberta and also on the provincial executive at that time, has been the first woman to be appointed to Alberta's Agricultural Hall

of Fame in Edmonton. I'm sure the charter members will remember Mrs. Taylor.

Although I am not a member at present, I certainly enjoyed my association with this group while a member, and have always had a keen interest in their progress and activities.

The past 25 years of the Park Grove Group have certainly been worthwhile and eventful.

May your next 25 years be as successful as the past 25 years.

Congratulations, ladies, on a job well done and do keep up the good work.

Old Fashion Parade

by Betty Lowe

The Park Grove F.W.U.A. featured an Old Fashion parade in 1950 at the home of Mrs. John Lowe.

John Lowe's garage was decorated with old photographs on the walls and old catalogues, dress patterns and magazines, and books were passed around to the guests. Among these was a home-planning book, printed before 1900, featuring beautiful homes built for \$800.00. These were viewed with considerable amusement; now in the 70's it would be hilarious. There was also an interesting book on household hints in 1922, giving instructions for making a work basket from an old hat.

The narrator Mrs. Lowe started the parade with Elizabeth Ann Lowe wearing Mrs. Edwin Cunningham's mother's white mercerised organdie wedding dress, a 1902 model, with a high shirred neckline, small waist and full floor-length skirt with train, and matching white kid pumps.

Follow up was Lillian Ziegler wearing her grandmother's beautiful rust wedding gown of very fine wool cashmere — worn in 1895 and her grandmother Ziegler's silk shawl of 1917.

Mrs. Margaret Ziegler entered in a lovely black taffeta dress with cream shirred neckline, wondrous tucked blouse and full floor-length skirt with train, another 1896 model belonging to Mrs. Edwin Cunningham's mother, Mrs. Howard McCleery; also a cape of rich black satin and deep lace, and a black velvet bonnet trimmed with black lace and satin ribbons to tie in a bow under the chin, this belonging to Mrs. Stanley Sanford's grandmother in 1870 and having a tag on, bought from the T. Eaton store in Toronto, completed this outfit. Next came Mrs. Eva Fuller wearing Mrs. Henry Ziegler's 1917 wedding dress of white silk crepe — adorned with fancy, dainty French knots.

Mrs. Coon's 1915 wedding dress of beautiful silk embroidery and deep lace was modeled by Mrs. Marge Ripley. Gail Ferguson wore Mrs. K. T. Ferguson's



Elizabeth Ann Lowe and her aunt Emilie McMaster. The 2 dresses were Mrs. Howard McCleery's. The white one was her wedding dress in 1902. The black Taffeta was an 1896 model, 1950.

son's wedding dress 1914 model — white silk with deep silk embroidery trim.

Another wedding dress belonging to Mrs. W. J. Brown and worn by Thelma Ziegler, was made of very fine rich cream wool cashmere, floor-length and accented with tucks and embroidery, a 1907 model. Bernice Ferguson followed with a second Mrs. Brown's dress, a light floor-length flowered voile with tiny hand-sewn tucks, 1910, and carrying a basket of flowers and wearing a gay sunbonnet belonging to Mrs. Stanley Sanford's grandmother in 1876.

Nightwear was next, featured by Marguerite Ziegler wearing a floor-length nightgown of soft-heavy cotton with long sleeves, high neck and lace and embroidered yolk, dated back to 1902. She also wore a nightcap and carried a lighted candle for effect. Wendy Ferguson wore a gay wee baby bonnet belonging to Marion McCleery in 1906. Three-year-old Elaine Fuller wore a white-flowered floor-length cotton dress with matching sunbonnet, 1910 model. Also modeled was a nurse's uniform of considerable interest, belonging to Mrs. K. T. Ferguson. It was of



Old-Fashion Parade, 1950. Back row (l. to r.) — Thelma Ziegler, Marge Ripley, Marguerite Ziegler, Frankie Gafka. Front row — Ena Campbell and Elizabeth Lowe.

blue gingham with white bib and large apron and starched high collar, made in 1916. Returning models wore the lovely back cape and bonnet belonging to Mrs. Sanford's grandmother. They were the oldest garments and were so beautiful that the guests asked to see them again.

Also two lovely, black, full floor-length skirts belonging to Mrs. K. C. Coon's mother-in-law, dated to 1900. Hats — bonnets, yes, and large full white cotton-trimmed with embroidered cotton on each leg — pantaloons — half way between knee and ankle, were all modeled.

As photography was impossible the day of the parade, pictures were taken the next day with substitute models for those who were unable to come.

These were Frances Gafka and Ena Campbell. Some ancient items on display were Mrs. Lowe's aunt Kate Suder's prayer book, dated 1793. Helen Spence's ink-well over 200 years old — also ten-cent paper money, one of three not called in, dating back to 1840. Grandma Cunningham's platter — 140 years old. Ann Pierce's dish 150 years old, Mrs. Coon's vase bought 60 years ago in the first dime store in Duluth, Mrs. John Ziegler's beaded basket 60 years old, Lena Campbell's fancy dish 65 years old, Mrs. Brown's beaded purse 53 years old, Grandma Ziegler's little wicker basket she remembers bringing from Germany when they came to Canada in 1874, all these were displayed.

There were baby clothes that had been worn by the ladies present or by their mothers. In this two-day display everyone enjoyed reminiscing the past, and

in closing Mrs. Edwin Cunningham, our president, thanked Mrs. Lowe and all her lovely models that made the day very enjoyable.

Highlow Community Centre

In 1948 the Farmers' Union of Alberta and Community Association meetings were held in the former Highlow School #816. On May 17, 1952 the sale of Highlow School was approved and sold for the sum of \$10.00 to the Community. Officers through the years have been . . .

Presidents

1948-1951 — Charles Brinton
 1952-1955 — George Hughes
 1956-1965 — Michael Barlott
 1966-1969 — John Sawiak
 1970-1972 — Willis Carter
 1973-1974 — Bill Kitlarchuk
 1975-1980 — Michael Barlott

Vice-Presidents

1956-1965 — Richard Woloshyn
 1966-1968 — Michael Barlott
 1969-1970 — Leo Steinbach

1971- — Michael Barlott
 1972- — Bill Kitlarchuk
 1973- — Edward Sanford
 1974-1980 — Allen Lechelt
 Secretaries
 1948-1968 — Stanley Sanford
 1969-1972 — Myron Shewchuk
 1973-1974 — Doris Jeffery
 1975-1977 — John Sawiak
 1978-1980 — Myron Shewchuk
 Treasurers
 1967-1968 — Paul Werezuk
 1969-1973 — Emil Sokolski
 1974-1980 — Paul Werezuk

During the years 1948-1980, there were 106 families that supported the Community Association. There have been many social events such as: card parties, dances, concerts, bingos, picnics, retirement parties, farewell parties, bake sales and many annual Christmas banquets. Many interesting guest speakers were invited to present us with timely topics.

To honour the twenty-fifth anniversary of Highlow Unifarm and Community Centre, members gathered to prepare a float to be shown in the parade at the Vegreville Exhibition. The float depicted a log



Highlow School as Community Centre since 1952. Equipment is preparing the grounds.



On the Highlow Community Centre float, Vegreville Exhibition, 1973.



Highlow Community Centre float in Vegreville Exhibition parade, 1973.



Highlow Community Centre float in Vegreville Exhibition parade, 1973.



Highlow old-timers at Vegreville Exhibition, 1973. (l. to r.) — Harry Barlott, Stanley Sanford, Charles Brinton, George Hughes, Oliver Hughes.



Social gathering at the Highlow Community Centre, about 1973.

cabin and an enlarged emblem featuring the names of past and present executive members. Riding on the float were a few charter members as well as present members and several children. An annual project has been a decorated booth by Unifarm at the Vegreville Exhibition. This is always manned by Unifarm members and creates good-will in the Community.

During the years the Community Centre was improved by the installation of power, a modern furnace and renovation of the cloak-room area into an efficient kitchen with built-in cupboards and an electric stove.

East Vegreville Farm Women's Club

The actual date of the U.F.W.A.'s beginning is not known, but was before 1930. The first records date from 1942. The Club had changed its name to "East Vegreville Farm Women's Club" then.

Each meeting is opened by singing "O Canada" and repeating in unison the "Women's Creed". The Club has supplied membership for many farm women and also worked for the good of others.



East Vegreville Farm Women's Club at Landry's, 1942. Standing (l. to r.) — Mrs. L. Landry, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. V. Umphrey, Mrs. L. O'ligny, Dora Dean, ?, Mrs. C. Schneider, ?, Mrs. T. Maciborski, Mrs. Stan Walker, Mrs. O. Hughes, Mary Chernesky, Nellie Fedyna, Mrs. Ed. Eickmeyer, Rita Barrie, Clara (Wagner) holding baby. Seated, middle: Mrs. C. Brinton (pres.), Mrs. A. Reimer, Kathleen James, Mrs. S. James, Verda Dean (sec. treas.), Mrs. Flack, Mary Bourget, Mabel James. Seated, front: Mrs. D. Hughes, Mrs. H. Dean, Mrs. W. Barrie, Mrs. J. Rogers, Mrs. P. Callahan, Mrs. M. Thomas. Children, front: Margy Walker, Blanche Barrie and Rogers.

During the war much Red Cross work was done and quilts made. Over-seas Relief was supported and families in England were sent parcels and kept contact for many years.

The Dr. Cairn's School, crippled children, St. Joseph's Hospital, Nursing Home, Cancer Fund, C.N.I.B. were helped and awards were given each year to the 4-H Beef Club, schools and special prizes to the Exhibition.

Minutes of 1959 tell of an effort made to have a Rest Room in Vegreville and plaques for farms.

Coffee was served at the Experimental Farm Field Days. For many years Mrs. F. McCarty gathered woolens which were turned into blankets and sold.

Members keep close touch with each other by drawing names of a "Sunshine Pal" for the year.

Families are entertained each summer at a picnic and husbands at the Christmas meeting.

Sixty-nine farm women have belonged to the Club, but many now live in town.

"Club Woman's Creed"

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great human heart common to us all; and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Vegreville Women's Institute

by Dorothy Gorsline

The Vegreville Women's Institute was organized in May 1920. The first meeting was held in the Board of Trade room in the Alberta Hotel. The first president was Mrs. O'dell (Mr. O'dell ran the Vegreville Creamery). Mrs. Couillard was first Vice President. There were 23 members; dues were 25¢ a year. By the third meeting there were 45 members, and by end of the year there were 52 members.

Holding teas, card parties, etc., they raised \$90.15 and started a rest-room which was urgently needed in the town.

For the New Year's dance everyone dressed as children; this raised \$80.10 and the first Vegreville Library was started in the back of the rest-room. The Institute held their meeting there each month and members looked after the building in turn till a librarian was found — Mrs. Webb was the first. The library was a cottage building situated where the I.G.A. Store is now.

In 1923 Mrs. O'dell ordered 500 poppies to sell for Armistice Day, November 11, and cleared \$102.00. The Institute put Mrs. Goodwin on the school board, the first lady member.

Mrs. E.E. Morton joined in 1924. She introduced many good works in her time of office and from President of W.I. in Vegreville became the first World President of the Associated Country Women of the World (A.C.W.W.). In 1947 she was elected president of Alberta and so on up the ladder, but always one of Vegreville's W.I. members. In her memory we donated her portrait, as our Centennial Project, to the library because she worked in many ways for educational projects till the Major Fane Chapter of I.O.D.E. took over in 1937.

The Institute took over the prize list for the Vegreville Fair Board in 1924. They had a member to police the exhibit building and they handled entering and handing out of exhibits. All this was by volunteers from our membership. There are several of our members still on the Fair Board in 1979, and also three life members.

During World War II, special projects were: supplying 19 families with milk; sent out 60 hampers to needy families at Christmas; 85 parcels were sent to soldiers, seamen and airmen. Local boys received

parcels, cigarettes, 270 ditty bags, leather and fur-lined jackets, long handknit seamen's socks and books.

In 1941 there were 234 tins of jam sent to Britain, along with ditty bags. In 1943 leather jackets for the sailors with 34 Christmas hampers, also 25 pairs of socks.

Now the W.I. gives help to needy mothers, quilts to fire victims and other gifts to those in need.

The three schools receive awards each year. The Ross Cairns School and Senior Citizens' Home are helped in many ways.

Our life member is Mrs. McCarty and we call on her many times for help and correction in our work today, 1979.



Vegreville Women's Institute, 1967. Mrs. Dorothy Gorsline (l.) President, presenting life membership to Mrs. F. McCarty on Institute's 44th birthday.



Vegreville Women's Institute celebrating 44th birthday, 1967. Mrs. Olyan — Charter Member, Dorothy Gorsline — President, Mrs. Couillard — (Charter Member).

We celebrated our 44 years by a tea and banquet inviting all former members we could get in touch with. Gifts were presented to the two oldest members, Mrs. J. Tillapaugh and Mrs. McCarty.

Mrs. McCarty has held many offices in our local branch.

On many occasions Mrs. Morton's name comes up, not only in Vegreville but in Provincial Conventions also. Other old-timers are: Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Forcade, Mrs. Jeffrey, Mrs. Slorach, Mrs. Chilibeck and Mrs. Olyan.

In 1970 a memorable occasion was our 50th Anniversary. Greetings were read from Federal, Provincial and District levels; Mrs. Alexander, Provincial President presented Vegreville with a gold scroll. A very enjoyable program was arranged by Mrs. Pelletier, Mrs. Gorsline, Mrs. George, and Mrs. Pierce. A solo by Cora Smiley, accompanied by Mrs. W. Nicholson, "End of a Perfect Day" was much appreciated to end this perfect day.

In the last few years we have taken trips by bus to several different places, and picnics to end each year's hard work in which all members do their part.

We give a gift to any member reaching eighty years and we have had a few!

Our only difficulty is getting new and younger members so they can take over offices.

We hold our meetings the second Friday of each month and welcome any lady to join us, or come and visit us.

Alida Women's Institute



Alida W. I. (formed in 1935) — Photo 1943. Back row (l. to r.) — Maude Higley (visitor), Gertrude Cassidy, Etta Leach, Louise Jonas, Carrie Cole, Irene Shaw, Marjory Hulett, Mrs. C. Shaw, Mrs. Hulett, Madge Leach, Mrs. Langpap, Mrs. Trenhaile, Mrs. Morton (Honored Guest). Front row (l. to r.) — Louise Cole, Pearl Atkinson, Florence Gorsline, Cassie Cassidy, Eva Cole, Leora Gorsline, Grace Johnson — holding son Lorne, Mrs. Keiffer.



Alida W. I. — 1956. Back row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Langpap, Mrs. Jonas, Louise Cole, Georgina Smith, Margaret Langpap, Madge Leach, Anne Goshko, Nita Cassidy, Marjory Hulett, Lillian Lindley, Nancy Korpan, Nadia Farion, Mrs. Paranych, Hazel Wilkinson. Front row (l. to r.) — Anne Langpap, Grace Wilkerson, Grace Johnson, Pearl Atkinson, Eva Cole, Mary Goshko.



Alida W.I. group taken at Mrs. M. Cassidy home, 1955. Standing (l. to r.) — Grace Johnson, Lillian Lindley, Gertrude Cassidy, Ann Farion, Olga Kubin, Mary Goshko, Marjorie Hulett, Grace Wilkerson. Centre: Pearl Atkinson, Margaret Ross. Seated: Marina Williams, Brenda Wilkinson, W.I. visitor for the day from Australia, Louise Jonas, Annabelle Langpap, Eva Cole, Louise Cole, Ann Langpap.

Wendy Brook W. I. by Minnie Albrecht

We were organized in May, 1950, at the Old Vegreville School, with the help of Marjorie Hulett, Myrtle Collison and Constituency Convener Mrs. J. I. Jones of Mannville. The Alida Institute members were always an inspiration to us. Sixteen members joined the first year.

We hold our meetings in our homes, and our goals are to help the needy in our community. We raise money by holding bake sales, card parties, and dances. We made quilts and packed boxes of clothes. Lately we have been serving lunches at farm auction sales and 4-H achievement days. We have sent numerous cards to the sick and bereaved, and visit the hospital patients and shut-ins.



Wendy Brook W. I. members, 1951. Standing (l. to r.) — Bertha Mayer, Florence Brennan, Lillian Harter, Alma Miller, Aurore Bobert, Stella Drysdale, Mrs. Jim Brennan, Frances Benoit, Joan Bown, Betty Mason, Helen Hunchak, Mrs. B. Rempis, Della Mayer, Ida Hohl. Kneeling (l. to r.) — Emma Mast, Myrtle Collison, Mina Mayer and some of the little ones (future members).



Wendy Brook W.I. members watching Mrs. Durie demonstrate different attachments to sewing machine, 1960's.

We sponsored Search for Talent shows and amateur nights and in 1961 we held our first Carol Festival. It was a great success and we have carried on with it since then. The proceeds from this were donated to the Dr. Cairns School, and these last few years we have given money as music awards. We have a Mother of the Year award when we give a small gift to a deserving mother. We take great interest in entering sewing, baking, flowers and vegetables in our local exhibition.

We have had three members serving as Constituency Conveners, Mina Albrecht 1951-54, Leona Walker 1965-69, and Beulah Giebelhaus 1977-81. Our present membership is fourteen. We enjoy our meetings and hope to continue for many years.

Lavoy Women's Institute

by Mrs. L. Smiley, Mrs. P. Semeniuk, Mrs. E. Sanford

On invitation of Mrs. W. Purdue, Mrs. J. I. Jones of Mannville, the District 2 Director of the Alberta

Women's Institutes, came to the Lavoy Community Hall on a lovely fall afternoon, October 25, 1950 to talk to the ladies. After her talk, the motion was made and duly passed to form a Women's Institute branch and took the name of Lavoy W.I. Twenty-eight women joined the group that afternoon becoming charter members of this organization: Mrs. J. Armitage, Mrs. H. Bushko, Mrs. H. Haluschak, Mrs. T. James, Mrs. W. Kittle, Mrs. J. Olson, Mrs. E. Sanford, Mrs. F. Smiley, Mrs. L. Smiley, Mrs. D. Tweedale, Mrs. K. Hughes, Mrs. A. Pelletier, Mrs. P. Semeniuk, Mrs. J. Tweedale, Mrs. L. Bricker, Mrs. C. Carleton, Mrs. R. Hoggins, Mrs. F. Kittle, Mrs. P. Maciborski, Mrs. W. Purdue, Mrs. W. Sikal, Mrs. G. Smiley, Mrs. D. Spaidel, Mrs. P. Haluschak, Mrs. M. Kariam, Mrs. W. Rosequist, Mrs. M. Slywchuk, Mrs. K. Smiley.

Today we have three original charter members with the group: Mrs. E. Sanford, Mrs. P. Semeniuk and Mrs. L. Smiley.



Lavoy Women's Institute Girls Club, 1958.



The Lavoy Women's Institute entered a float in the Lavoy parade to celebrate Alberta's Jubilee, 1955. (L. to r.) — Kate Kariam, Kate Skoreyko, Ann Haluschak, Georgina Hughes, Dorothy Sanford, Brenda Godoy. The children are Arnold Sanford and Roberta Godoy.

The first executive was as follows:
 President — Mrs. C. Carleton
 Vice-President — Mrs. H. Bushko
 Secretary — Mrs. L. Smiley
 Treasurer — Mrs. E. Sanford.

At the November meeting of 1950, it was planned that we would have meetings the third Wednesday of each month in the Curling Club waiting room. We still meet the third Wednesday of each month, except that now it is in the evening and at the Community Hall. That month saw ten of our members attend a banquet at the Alberta Hotel, Vegreville, to hear Mrs. E. E. Morton of Vegreville, who had been President of the Alberta Women's Institutes, give a report on the Associated Country Women of the World Conference held in Copenhagen earlier that year. It was later our privilege to receive a donation of several books from Mrs. E. E. Morton for our own Library. At the first meeting we began subscribing to the W.I. publication called "Home and Country"

and have been receiving it ever since. Our annual meeting is in December when elections are held. The motto for the group is "For Home and Country".

One of the first projects of the group was collecting soap and articles of clothing for Greece and one money-making project was selling greeting cards. One of the first planned community affairs was a St. Patrick's Tea and Lunch at the Hotel where we hoped to sell home-baked articles. Unfortunately this had to be postponed due to a blizzard. We began canvassing for the Cancer Society in 1951 and have canvassed for the Red Cross over the years. Donations have gone to the C.N.I.B., Salvation Army, Mental Health Association, Vegreville Christmas Bureau, Grade nine awards, the A.W.I. office fund, Award to the Vegreville Exhibition and fire victims in the area.

Mrs. C. Carleton was the first delegate from our newly formed group to attend the Annual Convention in Edmonton, May, 1951, while Mrs. L. Smiley represented the group as the first delegate to the



Lavoy Women's Institute, December, 1953. Back row (l. to r.) — Hazel Romaniuk and Linda, Josie Horon, Greta Puffer, Kate Skoreyko, Georgina Hughes, Ann Bushko, Ann Haluschak, Ruby Edy and Kathleen. Middle row (l. to r.) — P. Stepushyn, Ann Koban, Kate Kariam, Mabel Suddaby, Grandma Kittle, Judith and Julia Kittle, Mrs. Romaniuk, Nettie Briggs and Joyce. Front row (l. to r.) — M. Louise Pelletier, Mildred Sikal, Mary Semeniuk, Cora Smiley, Dorothy Sanford, Rose Haluschak, Ruth Smiley, Elsie James.

Constituency Conference at Mannville, in June, 1951, and Mrs. G. Smiley was the first member to attend Farm Women's Week in Vermilion in July, 1951. Delegate to the bi-annual District Conference held in Edmonton, March, 1952, was Mrs. W. J. Kittle. The Lavoy group sponsored their first Constituency Conference in June, 1954, at which 100 delegates registered. In honor of the 20th anniversary of the group, we made a float and entered the annual Fair Parade in Vegreville, and when October rolled around we entertained the community with an Open House and Tea at the Community Hall. During the year when we celebrated our 25th anniversary, we assisted at a booth at the Vegreville Fair in July, along with Wendy Brook and Rosemary branches, also celebrating their 25th anniversaries, and displayed handicraft articles and also demonstrated craft techniques.

Our pancake supper, begun in 1951 and held each Shrove Tuesday annually is our biggest money-raising endeavour. We have also held bake sales, rummage sales, Hobo teas, travelling baskets, dues and tea money, birthday box, whist parties, catering at auction sales, talent and amateur night programs, and draws including quilts and tablecloths and flea markets.

Activities of the group over the years have included picnics, teas, fashion shows, theatre parties, sponsoring T.B. clinics, sponsoring young people at Vegreville Fair Camp, sending delegates to convention, attending conferences and Farm Women's week programs, the Ice Capades, Home Parade Fair,

sponsoring a workshop on ageing, entitled "Planning To-day for To-morrow", assisting at a booth at the Edmonton Exhibition, teas, sewing for the hospital in Vegreville, packing Christmas baskets for bachelors in the area, sponsoring a Cooking School, sending cookies, and touring the Dr. Cairns School for the Retarded in Vegreville.

A Girls' Group was organized in November 23, 1951, called the "Morning Glories". President — Katherine Semeniuk, Vice-President — Lillian Semeniuk, Secretary — Vicky Bushko, Treasurer — Rose Juba, with leaders Mrs. M. Slywchuk, Mrs. H. Bushko, being assisted later on by Mrs. A. Pelletier. They held two meetings a month and did felt craft and shellwork and were sponsored by the W.I.

In 1952 the W.I. bought dishes, silverware and towels from the United Church Guild, for the Curling Rink, and later purchased dishes, cupboards and stoves for the hall.

Our first Home Bake Sale was held at Dowhey's General Store in November, 1952. We also sponsored National Film Board films for community showing once a month but this didn't prove too feasible. We began quilting in 1955 and won a prize at the Fair for our "Lady" quilt, and over the years made several quilts for draws, including a "Centennial", two "Daisies", "Cornucopia" and "Crazy" and one of wool patches. We honored the Pioneers in 1955 on "Jubilee Day" in Lavoy holding a parade and entering our W.I. pioneers float. Our Sunshine committee was formed in 1955 and still remembers the sick, bereaved, and babies in the community.

Because the Women's Institute is an adult education group, we have studied various topics of interest including cancer films, laws of interest to women, mentally retarded, family finance and consumer law, physical fitness, entertained the President of the Guyana groups at the Hall, had Home Economists address us on topics such as freezing food, metrics,



One of the quilts made by the Lavoy Women's Institute. The ladies' dresses are red and green. Members' names are embroidered on the two centre diamonds. 1965.



Lavoy Women's Institute — Vegreville Exhibition Parade. The 1947 Chrysler is decorated with blue and white (Institute colors), and the cake is in honor of the Institute's 20th birthday, 1978.

Christmas centerpieces, home care, recycling clothes and home articles and macrame.

Our branch continues with its programs of studies, helping in the community as we try to live by our Creed and Motto. We try to encourage new, younger women in the community to join and keep the organization alive. After all, we are only a small part of the Associated Country Women of the World, with its eight million members, but each small group is a link in the chain of women around the world.

Lavoy Women's Institute Girls' Club

The first Women's Institute Girls' Club was organized in 1952 and named "Morning Glories". Some of the members were: Gladys Pichach, Joan Haluschak, Joyce Pichach, Joyce Sikal, Iris Haluschak, Jean Ouellette, Joan Sikal.

The topics they studied were: Education, Health, Citizenship, Home Safety, Nature and Handicrafts.

The supervisors were: Mrs. Pelletier, Miss Ergezinger and Mrs. Bushko.

They reorganized March 24, 1954 and chose the name of "Lavoy Melody Maidens". They even wrote a theme song. The following were elected to be the executive:

President: Katherine Semeniuk

Vice-President: Maureen Suddaby

Secretary: Gladys Pichach

Treasurer: Loretta Footz

Supervisors: Mrs. Pelletier, Mrs. Bushko, Mrs. Slywchuk, Miss Ergezinger and Mrs. Semeniuk

Members: Vickie Bushko, Joyce Sikal, Nataalka Bilyk, Iris Haluschak, Joan Horon, Joan Kittle, Lillian Samoil, Lillian Semeniuk, Cecile Bushko, Joan Sikal, Geraldine Kalynchuk, Joan Haluschak, Mary Jane Kott, Annette Pelletier, Emily Samoil, Joyce Pichach, Olga Bilyk, Betty Kalynchuk, Joan Samoil, Florence Kittle, Elizabeth Samoil, Marilyn Farrion.

The girls enjoyed learning the following crafts: crocheting, embroidery, knitting, making candles and candy.

The next club was organized on February 19, 1957 under the direction of Constituency Convenor, Mrs. Dickson. Ruby Edy and Greta Puffer were the first leaders. When Edys left town, Louise Borud took over her position. The name chosen was "Lavoy Silver Bells".

The first executive was:

President: Joan Kittle

Vice-President: Cecile Bushko

Secretary: Mary Jane Kott

Treasurer: Mary Mykietyshyn

Members: Nataalka Bilyk, Olga Bilyk, Barbara Borud, Josie Duliba, Florence Kittle, Sophie My-

kietyshyn, Joyce Kittle, Heather Smiley, Sandra Smiley, Sylvia Wattamaniuk, Wendy Puffer.

Eight meetings were held at members' homes and an achievement day was held on July 7th with a display of work and tea.

The "Silver Bells" organized for a second term on September 27, 1957. The executive was:

President: Mary Jane Kott

Vice-President: Florence Kittle

Secretary: Mary Mykietyshyn

Treasurer: Nataalka Bilyk

Members: Olga Bilyk, Barbara Borud, Carolynne Borud, Judith James, Joyce Kittle, Sophie Mykietyshyn, Heather Smiley, Sandra Smiley, Sylvia Wattamaniuk, Ivy Withers, Jean Withers.

The members learned to crochet, knit, embroider and sew. They enjoyed a cooking demonstration by Elizabeth Lowe and a Cookie Decorating demonstration by Dorothy Sanford. They had a cookie booth at the Bazaar held by the Women's Institute in the Community Hall. The members exchanged gifts at Christmas Time and packed a box of goodies for a handicapped girl. They all enjoyed a toboggan party one sunny Sunday with Louise Borud providing a



Lavoy 4-H "Nimble Thimbles", 1958. Visitors at program.



Lavoy 4H "Nimble Thimbles", 1958. "Here is de judge."

pull with the little truck.

Achievement Day was held June 28th at the Community Hall with members providing lunch and flowers to decorate the tables. The Judge for the projects was Miss Elizabeth Lowe.

In addition to the 4-H and Women's Institute Clubs, there were other groups which met, such as a Knitting Class taught by a teacher, Miss Helen Yaseyko, and a Craft Class under the guidance of Miss Emma Ergezinger. More recently children were taught needlework by Mrs. Olga Rosequist.

At one time there was also a Boys' Club but no details are available.

Vegreville 4-H Clothing Club by Esther and Katie Giebelhaus

The first 4-H Clothing Club in the Vegreville area, namely the "Alida 4-H Clothing Club" was organized in October — 1962 at the home of Helen Hunchak (Mrs. John) — southwest of Vegreville. Miss Jeannette Dolling was District Home Economist at that time.

The Charter Members were: Janice Giebelhaus, Barbara Matviw, Phyllis Hunchak, Geraldine Muzechka, Diane Swenson, Henrietta Tropak, Lucille Korpan, Christine Wynnchuk, Geraldine Litun, Sharon Derdak, Theresa Klymochko and Bernice Kowalchuk.

The executive of that 1st year were: President — Geraldine Muzechka; Vice-President — Janice Giebelhaus; Secretary — Phyllis Hunchak; Club reporter — Bernice Kowalchuk.

Janice Giebelhaus was also Junior Leader the year of organizing. She had been with the Clothing Club for two years in the County of Beaver prior to joining the Alida Clothing Club in 1962.

Esther Giebelhaus (Mrs. Wm. A.) accepted the position of Club Leader and, being interested in young people and helping them to learn at Club Level, she served in this capacity for twelve consecutive years and one year as Assistant Leader. Her Assistant Leaders over the years were Mary Goshko (Mrs. Andrew), Mrs. Marshall Ruptash, Helen Hunchak and Barbara Powley (Mrs. Bill).

Two Clubs existed in 1963-64 — one under Esther Giebelhaus' leadership and one with Jeanette Zaruby (Mrs. Eugene) as Leader. These two Clubs merged into one again later. Elizabeth Durie (Mrs. James) was District Home Economist at this time.

Meetings were held in the homes of the members once a month, followed by workshops. Rallies with other Clothing Clubs in different counties were held annually. Club week was held in Vermilion with eliminations at Olds, where top members competed to represent Alberta at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair,

Indiana State Wind-Up and to the other Provincial Exchanges.

The Clothing Club's popularity grew from a very small number in 1962 to 48 members for the 1971-72 year with 39 — 1st year members that year. The following year 1972-73 the number grew again with 29 new members giving the club an even larger enrollment — 57 members. The year 1973-74 with such a large membership again, saw the Clothing Club split into two Clubs for the Vegreville area again. The two Clothing Clubs that formed were — Vegreville Nimble Fingers Clothing Club with 26 members and the Vegreville Tidy Tailors Clothing Club with 31 members.

The Nimble Fingers Club was under the Leadership of Geri Tuck (Mrs. Wayne) with Esther Giebelhaus and Alyce Paranich (Mrs. Mike) as Assistant Leaders. Alyce Paranich was Leader for the Nimble Fingers Club for several years with Olga Jamison (Mrs. Paul) as present Leader.

Grace Kulba (Mrs. Peter) accepted the leadership for the Tidy Tailors Clothing Club with Beulah Giebelhaus (Mrs. John C.) and Elsie Kawulych (Mrs. Mike) as Assistant Leaders. The present Leader for the Tidy Tailors 4-H Clothing is Elsie Kawulych.

The Clubs hold monthly meetings in the 4-H Room of the Centennial Building in Vegreville.

Lavoy 4-H Clubs by Dorothy Sanford

At the suggestion of Mrs. Chester Gamble (who was teaching at Lavoy School) a 4-H Clothing Club was formed on November 8, 1951. The members chose as their name "Lavoy Linch Pins".

The first executive:

President: Elsie Juba

Vice-President: Nancy Nowicki

Secretary: Elizabeth Lowe

News Reporter: Bernice Hubbard

Other members were: Victoria Dudziak, Gladys Pichach, Marjorie Koban, Olga Shewchuk, Stella Noselski, Nancy Nowicki, Muriel Hubbard, Ruth Gamble, Annette Litwin, Katie Wicentowich, Betty Florko, Joyce Gamble, Helen Laschuk, Elizabeth Storozhenko.

Leaders of this club were: Mrs. Mabel Gamble, Mrs. Brenda Godoy, Mrs. Dorothy Sanford.

The members made sewing kits, aprons, hanger covers, laundry bags and dickeys. They also learned care of clothing, laundering, stain removal.

Meetings were usually held at members' homes.

A highly successful venture was an Amateur Program with all members helping with arrangements and making posters. An interesting day was spent at

the "Little Royal" at the Vermilion School of Agriculture.

The highlight of each year's work was always "Achievement Day" when members displayed their projects, participated in Public Speaking and demonstrations and served lunch for their guests.

This club was active for three seasons.

The Lavoy 4-H Clothing Club organized in 1961 with fifteen members and this time was called "Nimble Thimbles". Leaders were Mrs. E. Sanford and Mrs. G. Withers and Club Executive:

President: Shirley Melnyk

Vice-President: Sylvia Chorney

Secretary: Helen Horon

Club Reporter: Heather Smiley

Executive elected in 1962:

President: Jean Withers

Vice-President: Joan Bown

Secretary: Shirley Melnyk

Treasurer: Marjorie Warawa

Club Reporter: Gloria Samoil

Executive elected in 1963:

President: Marjorie Warawa

Vice-President: Joan Bown

Secretary: Darlene Karpinski

Treasurer: Gladys Farion

Club Reporter: Nadia Samoil

The leaders in 1963 were Mrs. E. Sanford and Mrs. P. Samoil.

These members made sewing kits, dressing capes, laundry bags, dickeys and aprons as well as hand lotion and cold cream.

An important part of the program was "Etiquette" and all members had an opportunity to practice this when they were hostesses for a "Mother and Daughter Banquet" which included the whole family.

To raise money for the club the members sold candy at the Women's Institute Bazaar and all helped

sew a wardrobe for a doll which was raffled. Also financially successful was a "Slave Auction" held on Achievement Day.

This club was active for three years and the highlight was the Provincial Award of a silver tray to Jean Withers for the "Best Clothing Project Book". Needless to say, her parents, fellow members and Club Leaders were very proud of her.

In 1975 the Lavoy Multi Club organized and became the Scizzlers and Swivellers. It was now possible to have several projects in each club and boys as well as girls learned crafts and leather work in addition to clothing.

There were eleven members in 1975-76.

President: Doreen Kisilewich

Vice-President: Dwayne Motiuk

Secretary: LaVerne Kisilewich

Treasurer: Lesleah Footz

Leaders were: Dorothy Sanford, Dorothy Litke and Helen Footz.

Activities of this group were: Caroling, Bake Sale (featuring a gingerbread house made by Dorothy Litke), Ice Capades, Public Speaking (Winners were: Laura Sokalski, Theresa Morrison), donation to volleyball team, curling.

Achievement Day was held May 5, 1976.

In 1976-77 there were fifteen members.

President: LaVerne Kiselewich

Vice-President: Elizabeth Strap

Secretary: Theresa Morrison

Treasurer: Louise Jamieson

Leaders were Dorothy Sanford and Dorothy Dand.

Activities were: bake sale (a decorated heart-shaped cake, made by Dorothy Sanford, was won by Mrs. Ida Baxandall), caroling, skate-a-thon for 4-H Centre (\$150.00 was donated), tour to Edmonton, highway clean-up, display at Fair, a wind-up party at the Experimental Farm featured Chinese Food.



Curling Bonspiel, for 4-H about 1960.

Members were fortunate to receive a donation from U.G.G. which was used to buy awards for winners of Public Speaking, LaVerne Kiselewich and Darolyn Smiley.

There were fourteen members in 1977-78.

President: Dwayne Motiuk

Vice-President: Louise Jamieson

Secretary: Darolyn Smiley

Treasurer: Grant Austin

Leaders were Mrs. Sanford and Laura Sokalski.

Members held a successful bake sale and participated in the highway clean-up. All enjoyed caroling which followed a potluck supper and exchange of gifts.

The wind-up party was held at a lake and members and parents enjoyed a picnic lunch.

Thirteen members joined the Club in 1978-79.

The executive chosen:

President: Laura Sokalski

Vice-President: Louise Jamieson

Secretary: Melinda Shank

Treasurer: Elan Austin

Leaders were: Mrs. Sanford and Mrs. Davis

In addition to the usual activities we held at Walk-a-thon and seven members (no leaders) completed the sixteen-mile route. The wind-up party following Achievement day was held at the Experimental Farm and all members and their families enjoyed a wiener roast.

It has always been interesting working with 4-H members and the helpfulness and co-operation of the parents is appreciated.

Senior Citizens Sunshine Club

by A. W. Tymchuk

The Senior Citizens Sunshine Club in Vegreville started in June, 1972. A lot of hard work and planning by dedicated people preceded its inception.

A. H. Wynnychuk and S. Uniat laid the groundwork; they obtained ideas and comments from the already-established senior clubs in the province. The New Horizons grant from the Federal Government covered a large portion of the costs.

Laura Dueck and Kerry Lowe from Edmonton brought the required information to interested citizens. One could build, renovate, buy or lease.

The organizational meeting was held on June 20, 1972, at the Chatelaine Restaurant. The name, Sunshine Club of Vegreville, was adopted. It was incorporated under the Societies Act, in October, 1972, but in March, 1979, the name was changed to Senior Citizens Sunshine Club of Vegreville. To conform to the bylaws, the senior citizens elected the following first slate: President — A. H. Wynnychuk, Vice-President — Metro Lazaruk, Treasurer — Mike

Zukiwski, Secretary — William Steblyk, and Directors — William Chilibecki, Steve Uniat, Bill Micklich, P. Maximchuk, Julius Tomaszewsky, Bill Yaremco, and William Kutt.

A budget was drawn up — figure, \$7485. The Civic Building was vacant so overtures were made to the Town Council. The members felt that with their grant they could renovate the premises. But the town asked for a cash payment for the building, a sum that the club did not have, nor could it use grant money for the purchase. The club asked the Town Fathers to help them locate a suitable building. The vacant basement, presently in the building occupied by the Vegreville Savings and Credit Union, was used, starting in October, 1972. The town agreed to pay up to \$1370 annually to cover expenses.

In October, 1973, the club was registered under the Societies Act, with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The town councillor and recreation director, Larry Ruptash, informed the membership that if they wanted to qualify for the grant, they must have a women's executive. Consequently the following were elected (all women): President — M. Kutt, Directors — M. Lazaruk, A. Steblyk, A. Sutherland, Mrs. Tomaszewsky, Mrs. Fuller, L. Najdziak, Mrs. Yarmoloy, K. Boyd, and M. Wynnychuk.

To qualify and apply for the New Horizons grant, assistance of Mrs. Thelma Scambler was obtained. \$14,034 was budgeted for renovations. The first grant money was used to buy a second-hand pool table.

The members made trips to various clubs to see how they operated. They concluded that their basement quarters were unsuitable because of the location, smoke, and lack of ventilation. Wednesdays were set aside for the ladies, but after a few gatherings they abandoned the premises.

In November, 1973, rumors were circulating that the C. N. was curtailing its service and a portion of the depot was available. The town was interested and learned it could buy the building for \$1. Many organizations and groups in town were against the closing of the depot, but finally they relented.

In January, 1973, the club petitioned the federal and provincial governments for assistance but were told that no such help was available.

To get its own constitution the club asked Lillian Whittier from P. S. S. for assistance. Her help was greatly appreciated.

In January, 1974, the annual meeting elected J. F. Melenka for president. At the special meeting in February of the same year, S. Uniat was elected secretary. At this time the club decided to pursue the acquisition of a portion of the C. N. station for their

use. Don Mazankowski, M. P. provided some information from the Department of Transport.

Although various groups, railroad personnel, town council, and historical society met in February, 1974, to discuss the possible use of the C. N. depot, nothing definite emerged. The town could renew the lease every 5 years, 73% of the building could be used for the Sunshine Club, but no definite solution or agreement was reached.

In March, 1974, Mrs. Scambler visited the club to draw up blueprints for the necessary renovation. Mrs. Scambler again visited the club in July, 1974. Larry Ruptash, town councillor, and Don Mazankowski, M. P. were present at the meeting. This time the goal was in sight. The building was to be sold in October, blueprints could be envisioned, and a portion of the depot would be vacated. In October the renovation of the building, under a master carpenter, would commence. That same day the contract was drawn up and signed.

After the C. N. R. station was obtained, meetings were held to finalize plans for alterations; representatives attending the meetings came from the Town Council, P. S. S., trades and other interested community groups. The New Horizons and L. I. P. grants covered much of the expense, but many hours of volunteer labor went into the project. The portion of the depot allotted to the Sunshine club was renovated and updated.

The building is used by the senior citizens every day except Sunday. Games, recreation, entertainment, lunches, suppers, and parties are the activities common at the Centre.

The first financial committee should be given



Vegreville Rotary Club 1972-73. Front row (l. to r.) — L. J. Kroeger, Past Pres; Dr. S. Hardin, charter member; Pres. M. Markowsky; Bill Gehring, charter member; Martin Russ. Second row (l. to r.) — Art Schmidt; Al Scholtan; Steve Pawliuk, R. Gorrie; R. Cairns; W. J. Horton; J. Nichols; Sol Lucow; J. Huzil. Third row: (l. to r.) O. Youzwishen; Dr. F. Schulte; J. Skrypnik; Bill Slipp; H. Chomik; E. Demkiw; Bill Yurko; Rev. H. Heinemann; Russ Nikiforuk.

much credit for their dedication to the project. They were: Chairman — A. H. Wynnchuk, Vice-Chairman — Metro Lazaruk, Treasurer — Mike Zukiwsky, and Directors were — William Chilibecki, Alex Chilibecki, Steve Diakun, Nick Hawrysh, Andrew Bohaychuk, William Micklich, and Peter Maximchuk.

Sports



Tennis courts in schoolyard, just north of Public School, 1923-24. Presently on site is Lions' Parkview Manor.



Vegreville Women's Curling Club, 1917. Back row (l. to r.) — Davis, Butchart, Haldeman, Robertson, Hepburn, Hamsoos. Middle row — Lane, McIntyre, Worth, Morrison, Rodgers, Pozer. Front row — unknown, Casson, unknown, I. D. Worth, Hume.



A group of wonderful old friends and curlers after a bonspiel in Edmonton, 1925. Top row (l. to r.) — Wesley Headrick, Sam Douglas, A. L. Horton, Chas. Gordon. Bottom row (l. to r.) — Joe Green, M. L. Gordon, Larry Laurensen, Tommy Cannon.



Vegreville Men's Basketball Team when they played on the outdoor courts, 1938. Standing (l. to r.) — Henry Podealuk, George Brinton, Bill Cadzow, Doug Rennie. Kneeling — Gordon Chappell, Archie Jeffrey, Tom Nikiforuk, coach (absent) — Gordon Strong.



An 8-ender in the old curling rink, 1951. (l. to r.) — Winning team: Johnny Hantiuk (skip), Sgt. McLaughlin — R.C.M.P., Bill Lemski, Bev. Facey.



Ladies' Curling Champs, 1960's. (l. to r.) — Miss Betty Lou Sokoloski, Mrs. Roy Fuller, Mrs. Wes. Hughston, Miss Ida Eickmeyer.



(A.M.R.) — Alberta Mounted Rifles Hockey Team, about 1925.



East Vegreville farmers relaxing on a summer Sunday, 1928. (l. to r.) — Charlie Brinton, Oscar Johnson, Elwood Brinton, Billy McAreavy.



The Vegreville Amateur Radio Club at home of Clair Watts, 1934.



Vegreville Baseball Club — League Champions, 1946. Back row (l. to r.) — C. Brinton and J. Dubuc (promoters), Bill Gorniuk (third baseman and pitcher), Johnny Hantiuk (second baseman), Don Brinton (fielder). Middle row — George Hantiuk (fielder), Roger Bienvenue (first baseman), Floyd Hantiuk (short stop), John Zaozirny (promoter), Front row — Rod Dunn (coach), Bill Smith (catcher), Johnny Hallett (bat-boy), Gordon McIntosh (pitcher), Sandy Patch (coach). Some missing were Vic Berezan, Bill Severyn, Charles Green.



Opening of the Vegreville Swimming Pool, July, 1945. Group in foreground are guest swimmers from the Edmonton Aquatic Club.



Bird house competition sponsored by the Vegreville Fish and Game Association, late 1960's.



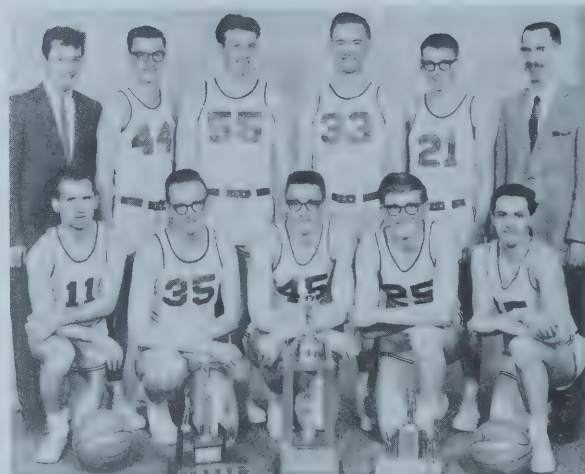
When these men were delivering bulk milk to the Vegreville Creamery and while they were waiting for their empty milk cans, they played Crib at the Service Station owned and operated by Ed. Reidlinger and Alex Diachuk. Top photo (l. to r.) — Bill Lemiski, Sam Zaporozan, Nick Romaniuk, Ed. Reidlinger, John Stecyk, Bill Diachuk, Bottom photo — The same except Alex Diachuk in background in place of Ed. Reidlinger. 1940's.



Vegreville Rangers — Champions, 1947.



Checking up for Jaycee Beard Contest, about 1970. (L. to r.) — Ed. Tarapacki, Jerry Welin, Lawrence Yakimchuk, unknown.



Vegreville High School Vegabonds — Provincial B Basketball Champions — 1961-62. Front Row: Ken Pichach, Ed Dwyer, Nestor Korchinsky, Marshall Andruchow, Bill Martynuik. Back Row: Lawrence Ferguson (Stats.), Robert Jeffrey, Dale Holloway, Elwood Schwanke, Dennis Fedoruk, John Springs, coach.

Farm Scene

Alberta Farm Life In 1905

by Henry Young, former President of F.U.A. —
Written for the “Organized Farmer” Golden Jubilee issue of September, 1955, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Province of Alberta.
Rugged conditions —

Compared with the present, the living conditions of the 1905 era were primitive. In the bush areas most houses were made of logs. As the logs shrunk from year to year and the plastering became loose, most of the houses were always cold in winter. Furniture was mostly home-made and the hay or straw tick in place of a mattress was common.

Kerosene lamps of various kinds supplied the only light, usually a feeble glimmer. There were big lamps with round wicks which gave a fair light, but they were unpopular because they used too much kerosene.

Water supplies came from shallow wells or were hauled or carried from streams. Some farm households were extremely short of water a lot of the time. In winter livestock had to be watered on sloughs or ponds, and when these froze solid a new chore of melting snow to water them lasted till spring.

The average farm house of 1905 had little in the way of bathing facilities. The same galvanized or wooden tub which was used in washing clothes also doubled as the family bathtub. The bathroom was the kitchen in front of the stove.

Since hot water was always scarce and sometimes even cold water too, several people usually used the same bath water.

Under these conditions many men, and perhaps some women too, took the easy way out and lived happily with a very minimum of bathing. Stories current in those days tell of men having their annual bath in a creek, and in so doing discovering extra layers of underwear which they had forgotten they had on since the previous fall.

Few conveniences —

The farm house of 1905 contained few conveniences. The washboard was more prevalent than

the washing machine, and as for power washers, they were still twenty to thirty years away. At that time the cream separator had not yet made its appearance on the average farm, so the farm wife had the extra chore of skimming the milk by hand and of course making butter for the family and for sale also if there was a surplus. Very few houses had sewing machines; in fact, hand work was the order of the day.

Heating the old log houses was always a problem. Where wood was available, that was the fuel, as it could be got without cost. Power saws were unknown, so all wood had to be cut by hand. Throughout the winter it was a never-ending struggle to keep up the wood supply for the stoves. In very cold weather the head of the house usually got up several times a night to fire up the heater or heaters. If he failed to do this, everything would be frozen by morning.

Vegetables kept in the house promptly froze, and if the root cellar was opened many times during the winter it sometimes froze solid before spring. If that happened the potatoes were a total loss as soon as they thawed out. As long as they were kept frozen they were still edible if boiled in the frozen state, though they tasted quite sweet.

As for farm operations proper, hard work was the order of the day. True, the binder, the mower, the hayrake, and various horsedrawn machinery were in fairly common use. Crude threshing machinery was also available, but scarce. In clearing land, hand labor plus a little horse power was all a farmer had. Some of the men who started out to clear 160 acres of trees and stumps got worn out themselves instead. It was indeed the heyday of the man with the strong back.

Travel difficult —

For a farm family, travel of any kind was difficult. Roads were merely trails through the bush following the high land around sloughs. In summer, wagons were usually the only conveyance, horses or oxen the motive power. Usually there were no spring seats. It

took all day to go a few miles to town and back, and was a real test of endurance to most women.

Where the trails crossed soft spots, mudholes speedily developed. When one trail across got impassable, the traveller got out his axe and cut another one which was better for a time. Often you were faced with the choice of five or six routes across a water runway, and had to guess at the most passable one.

And the corduroys! When the road allowances were opened up, the sloughs had to be corduroyed. For years these were used with little or no covering over the logs. Riding in a springless wagon across miles of corduroy is a bone-shaking experience. In those days, winter eased the situation, as it meant smooth travelling in sleighs and improved social communication. For many years winter was the only time when heavy loads could be moved.

Shopping limited —

Country stores had little choice of goods. Their stock was primitive: flour, sugar, salt, crackers, yeast cakes, kerosene, axle grease, bacon and some canned goods were the staple articles; then, of course, men's work clothes and tools of various kinds. As a concession to luxury they usually carried some horrible chocolate creams, and quantities of cheap, but almost inedible "mixed candy".

Actually there was little to induce a farm wife to endure the hardships of a trip to town except at rare intervals. As a result some women went rarely, while some only went once a year to do some Christmas shopping.

With the difficulties of travel in those days, it is not surprising that Eaton's catalog became the farm woman's standby. From its well illustrated pages, goods could be picked out and orders made up any time. The only drawback was the money required.

Money was generally scarce on the farm in the 1905 era, particularly in the bush areas. Most of the settlers were just getting started and had little surplus produce of any kind. Actually any farmer who had managed to get some production going soon improved his position, for while farm produce was cheap, goods were cheap too.

As an example of this in Eaton's catalog for 1905, men's wool underwear is priced at 60 cents to \$1.00 per garment. a Massey-Harris binder sold in the Wetaskiwin area for about \$160.00. A mower cost \$55.00 and a hayrake \$35.00. Actually a bushel of wheat which was about 50 cents would buy more goods than the same bushel will today. However, most of the pioneers had little acreage in crop. The bush land was hard to clear with hand labor and years went by before most farmers had much grain to sell. Also the varieties of grain available in 1905 were

unsuitable to this region and many crops were ruined by frost.

Age of optimism —

However, there was a lighter side to life in Alberta in 1905. It was an age of optimism. We were new people in a new country with a new century of opportunity before us. Everyone was sure that with hard work and perseverance their future was assured. The enterprising people who had come from many lands were ready to co-operate together in both work and play.

The social life of the time was enriched by contacts between the many fine personalities from different lands who were sharing a common lot. As there was no outside entertainment, the people of the community had to provide their own social life. People acted together in those days. They co-operated in work. They played together.

Often those of many religions attended the same church services in the country school. At first the farm houses and later the school house became the centre of social activity. The debates, the basket socials, the dances, plays and social evenings filled the winter evenings. In summer, picnics and ball games were the vogue.

Reading material was scarce. Books which had been brought from afar were passed around until some almost fell apart. The main literature in farm houses (apart from Eaton's catalog) was the "Family Herald", the "Nor-West Farmer" or the "Farmer's Advocate". There were few local papers and no dailies. Many settlers still got their old home-town papers for a time, but in most cases they gradually lost interest in them as the ties of the old life lost their hold.

Altogether in spite of the drawbacks, 1905 was a great time to be alive and in Alberta. Even the old men who had come here with little of their lives left, felt the boundless optimism of the period. Still hidden in the mists of the future were the two world wars and all the heartbreak and change which they would bring.

Life in those far-off days was primitive as compared with today. Yet it was on the whole, I think, a happier period than the present one. Life was simple, people's wants were few. No one had much, but they did not mind, because they were all sharing the same conditions and looking forward to better things.

Alberta Agriculture Office in Vegreville by Elizabeth Durie

On January 7, 1924, the Alberta Agriculture office was opened in Vegreville with F. H. Newcombe as the first District Agriculturist.

Mr. Newcombe's 1924 Annual Report for the Vegreville office concluded with the following:

"In general it may be said that the work of the District Agriculturist in this district is meeting with good local support and more and more farmers are coming in to discuss their problems. The wide range of these problems is indicated by the fact that information has been given out in meetings and from the office on the following subjects: Hog-grading, feeding, alfalfa, registered seed, forage crops, weeds, dehorning, animal diseases, school fairs, incubator operation, smut, rust, nitro culture, registration of grain and live stock."

Mr. Newcombe also told how in the organization of the first pig club at Vegreville in 1924, he called a public meeting. He invited people he knew and got the names of other potential members. Out of that meeting, a club was organized and there evolved certain older people who were most enthusiastic. He tried to capitalize on their enthusiasm by using them, and they gave considerable time and effort to the clubs.

Speaking of those early days, Mr. Newcombe mentioned that in the early 1920's, Switzer Freeborn, who was connected with the Federal Livestock Branch in Calgary, was provided by his government with a 1½- or 2-ton truck. "We used to borrow this truck", he said. "One day we came down to Calgary, loaded up the truck with weaner pigs between Calgary and Vegreville and distributed them to club members."

The young people in those days, he recalled, were shy and retiring. They had never been away from home. One thing this swine club at Vegreville did was to get them to speak up. But whatever it did for the youngsters, it changed the complexion of the swine industry in that area completely. At that time, the thick, smooth type was predominant — the Berkshire, Poland China type of hog.

This improvement in quality in the Vegreville area, Mr. Newcombe said, was attributed to the swine club; but we could not have accomplished it, he added, without the Federal Government Boar Loaning Policy. At one time we had 40 loaned boars in that area. Shipping Wiltshire sides to Britain was the purpose of this policy, he said. (Interesting in this respect is the annual report of the Federal Minister of Agriculture for 1929 in which, speaking of the Sire Loan Policy, he says: "The greatest advantage of this policy is taken in the Province of Alberta where there seems to be a greater demand, especially from foreign settlements, for bacon-type boars and pure-bred rams.")

It has often been said that the 4-H club was a vehicle of contact with parents, Mr. Newcombe re-

marked. The idea was that you met the parents through the junior club activities.

And it was some little time before those early district agriculturists were accepted by some of the people in their districts. Mr. Newcombe recalled how some of the old hard-headed farmers of the Vegreville district, successful farmers, came into the office shortly after he had been appointed.

After he had been there two or three months, and this was back in 1924, they came in and said that as far as a district agriculturist was concerned it was a waste of public money. There was nothing personal about this and relations were definitely friendly; but the idea was that a district agriculturist couldn't help them at all — a college man couldn't teach them anything about farming. It made some difference when they learned that he had farmed himself, but they were still not sold on the idea.

The sequel was that twelve years later these same farmers arranged a dinner in his honor, and remarked that if nothing else, the junior club work had undoubtedly justified the policy and expense of the agriculturist in their area.

The first farm boys' camp to be held in Alberta was conducted by the Vegreville Exhibition Association in 1926. Guests of the Association during the fair days of August 5, 6 and 7, were thirteen boys from the area of Chipman to Minburn and between the Grand Trunk Railway and the river. They were chiefly members of the Swine Clubs of the area. Instruction at the camp was given by the Vegreville district agriculturist in judging hogs, beef cattle and dairy cattle, with swine receiving the most attention. The Exhibition Association awarded prizes for general proficiency in the work covered.

In 1926, travelling to Toronto under the Canadian National Railways award were Edward and Leonard Chappel of Vegreville, coached by F. H. Newcombe. All these junior activities of those days took up part of a busy district agriculturist's time.

The year 1930 was a banner year for junior livestock clubs. The Vegreville team were again in the limelight when Robert Wyllie and William Schmidt won the Canadian National Railway trophy and were chosen to represent Alberta in the Dominion contest at Toronto. They went on to become champions for the Dominion of Canada, bringing credit to themselves, their province and their coach, F. H. Newcombe. Similar credit came to W. Pidruchney, formerly assistant to Mr. Newcombe at Vegreville, but now district agriculturist at Willingdon. As coach of the Willingdon team, comprising William Strynadka and John Lazaruk, Mr. Pidruchney had the satisfaction of seeing them that same year win the

C.P.R. trophy and also the coveted C.P.R. free trip to the Royal Winter Fair.

Grain improvement work in the Vegreville area was confined largely to boys' and girls' activities. A club of fifteen members was carried on in connection with the Vegreville School Fair, each member sowing one acre of registered first generation Marquis wheat or Victory oats. Mr. Newcombe reported that the general effect of the grain club over three years' operations had been to stimulate an interest in good, clean grain.

Fred Newcombe served in this office as District Agriculturist until it was temporarily closed in 1935.

In 1943, W. N. Pidruchney transferred from Smoky Lake to reopen the Vegreville office and he remained in this position until 1959, when he passed away on November 23rd.

The following is the 1944 Annual Report from the Vegreville office by W. N. Pidruchney:

"This was a very satisfactory crop year in the Vegreville district. With the exception of three weeks of wet fall weather, there was really nothing unfavourable in the season."

"The raising of livestock is the major farm enterprise in this district, and for that reason receives a large part of the time available from this office. There has been a steady demand for pure-bred boars and bacon-type gilts. During the year, 74 gilts and 42 boars were purchased through this office for farmers' orders. A number of others secured requirements through our Departmental Policies and the Edmonton sales. While cattle raising is not so important in this district as swine, winter feeding is on a larger scale than ever. This office assisted in purchasing nine bulls for farmers and a number of others secured breeding stock through Improvement Policies. Labour shortage has reduced revenue from dairy production. Four herds of cows are under the Cow Testing scheme, and we have co-operated with the Dairy Branch in checking these tests."

"There is a steady increase in poultry production, with proper feeding and management receiving more attention. Many well-planned poultry houses are now erected. This office assisted in culling about a dozen flocks during the year."

"There is increased demand for registered seed. Thatcher is replacing Red Bobs very rapidly and Victory continues as the popular oat variety. Newal barley is now accepted as the best variety for this area."

"It is encouraging to note the great increase in acreage devoted to forage crops. Farmers realize the importance of improving soil fertility as well as having reserves of good feed available. Through this office and municipal district offices, over 16,000

pounds of forage seed were distributed under the Forage Crop Policy. About one-quarter of this amount was alfalfa."

"This district has had a remarkable interest and increase in bee-keeping. Thousands of packages now come into the territory every spring. Information has been provided through meetings, field days and visits to individual beekeepers."

"Three Junior Grain Clubs were in operation with a total membership of 38. The Vegreville Beef Feeding Club, with a membership of 28, completed another successful season. Another Beef Club has been organized at Chipman with 18 members. Assistance was given in organization of a Farm Boys' Camp at the Vegreville Exhibition."

"There was a serious shortage of harvest labour, which was eased by the arrival of eastern harvesters, farm duty soldiers and farmers from the Peace River area. A total of 165 harvesters were placed through this office and local labour representatives. Investigations into applications for farm postponement numbered 255."

To provide official recognition of farm families who made outstanding contributions to agriculture and their communities, the Master Farm Family program was initiated. That was in 1949, and one of the first families to be acclaimed was the J. F. Melenka Family of Warwick. Other families in this area who also received the award were: In 1951, the J. G. Porozni Family of Willingdon; in 1952, the John Skrypitsky Family of Mundare; in 1955, the Chris Schneider Family of Vegreville; and in 1970, the Arthur Ziegler Family of Vegreville. A family had to be nominated by three farmers of the district and had to accept the nomination. Nominees were then visited by district and regional committees and on results of their findings, winners were named. One family could be chosen from each of the five regions in Alberta.

The third District Agriculturist in the Vegreville office is Nick Chomick who transferred here from Ryley in 1960 — and he still holds this position.

No less important has been the work of the Women's Extension Service under the long-time supervision of Mrs. Vera Macdonald.

The influence of a mother, unassuming as it might be, is often far-reaching. Once, long ago, R. M. Putnam related how his mother had said to him, "If you are ever in a position to do anything for the women on the farm, Robert, I hope you'll do it."

In 1943, as Director of Extension, he was writing: "The demand for women's extension work continues to increase more rapidly than staff and funds can meet. The time has come for the Department to consider the establishment of a comprehensive

Women's Extension Program by the appointment of a field staff on a permanent basis in the form of District Home Economists to serve the women of the Province."

In that year, four temporary district home economists and one full-time district home economist were assigned to carry out the summer program of demonstrations. In 1944, four more were appointed on a permanent basis, making five in all. From that time, the work has expanded until now approximately seventy home economists, located in Department of Agriculture offices throughout the province, find their time fully occupied with matters of particular interest to the rural homemakers of Alberta.

Over the years, the extension home economists have:

Helped families decide on suitable values and goals; helped develop and use their personal resources; helped parents understand child development and care; encouraged and showed ways to build a healthy home and community life; encouraged use of creative arts to improve family living.

Extension Home Economists showed women and communities ways to use their resources to enrich their family lives. Home Economists adapted their programs and methods to meet the varying needs of the people.

Family life experienced changes. More mothers worked outside the home, educational levels have risen, and families experienced increased standards of living. An abundance of goods to buy, services to hire, and wide choices of leisure activities called for good management and an understanding of family values.

While dealing with the unique problems created by the rising living standards, extension Home Economists faced the problems of a growing number of low income families. The Home Economists attempted to help these families improve their situation and to become contributing members of their community.

Home Economics Information was distributed to homemakers and individuals in the province through radio and television programs, newspaper articles, and newsletters. They have also worked extensively with 4-H groups, members and leaders.

The District Home Economist office opened in Vegreville on June 2nd, 1947, with Grace (Horbay) Melnyk being the first District Home Economist. She served in this position until 1953. Marion Inglis came next and worked in this area until 1957, when she transferred to Lacombe, and Patricia Mascaluk took over. Patricia Mascaluk transferred to Edmonton in 1960 and Jeanette (Dolling) Zaruby was the fourth District Home Economist. Elizabeth Durie

transferred from the Two Hills office to the Vegreville office in January of 1963 and is the present District Home Economist.

Over the years we have had the assistance of many pleasant and efficient stenographers — Ann Makowichuk, Grace Yaremico, Pat Goshko, Marlene Stark, Olga Kostiuk, Rose Osada, Elaine (Muntz) Michaud, Lois Bonik, Penny Cooke, and Cathi (Ursulak) Topechka.

Information obtained from Alberta Agriculture Annual Reports, 4-H in Alberta. 1917-1967 by E. B. Swindlehurst, and Alberta Agriculture Historical Review by E. B. Swindlehurst.

Alberta Agriculture - "As It Was In The Beginning Is Not Now And Never Again Shall Be"

by Fred H. Newcombe

The Calendar proclaimed that it was September of 1923. Lured, perhaps by visions of glory, or as a kindlier suggestion, motivated by that burning desire of politicians to devote their lives to the larger service of their fellowmen (are they not?), John Bracken was induced to leave his position as principal of Manitoba Agricultural College to become premier of that province. He did so with an avowed policy of economy — and how many others since then? As one terrific saving of taxpayers' dollars, he fired all seven of the agricultural representatives of which I was one. The saving, incidentally, was estimated to run to the colossal sum of \$2,500 per representative per annum.

And so does fate (and the politician) play with our destinies. With two months' dismissal pay in my patched overalls (a garment later to be raised to the dignity of 'jeans'), with a new wife, and with a soul full of hope and zeal, I was offered and accepted the job — or position — of district agriculturist at Vegreville. At that time in the perpetually less-favored areas lying east of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, Vegreville was confused with Verigin and so it was believed to be a colony of Doukhobors. It proved to be a thriving (in spite of not having had a DA — or because of that) area peopled by thrifty, hard-working Ukrainians, British, Americans and French-speaking Canadians in that order.

On December 1st, 1923, I reported to Sydney Carlyle, then livestock commissioner and in charge of all four DA's. My first assignment, handed to me by Deputy Minister H. A. Craig, was to sell Christmas turkeys for the egg and poultry marketing service on the railway line to Prince Rupert. On this assignment, I was a dismal failure but I think perhaps Mr. Craig did not learn of it! I was in competition with the established salesmen who knew the location

of the lumber camps. I have not returned to Prince Rupert since that fiasco. However, I am consoled by the memory that the egg and poultry marketing service also was a failure as have been the many ill-advised ventures of government into business.

Somewhat chastened and cut back to size by that experience, I returned to open my office (I use the word loosely) at Vegreville. It would not be strictly correct to say it was luxurious but it was fully furnished with a pot-bellied wood and coal burner and a kitchen table with a chair to match. Incidentally the chair was not really intended for sitting, it having, some years before, given up any pride it may have had in supporting a body. Anyway the department did not consider that the DA had any time to sit! I should add, though, that I was entrusted with the custody of a new, shiny-black, Model T touring car more popularly and perhaps more affectionately known as a Tin Lizzie.

I began my mission of bringing affluence to district agriculture at a salary of \$2,500 per annum, maximum for the job being \$3,300. Travel allowance was liberal at \$3.50 per diem — 50 cents for a meal. My district comprised all of the settled territory east and north of Edmonton but that was purely academic since one could not cover it. One bright spot — in retrospect — was reports. We were required without fail to write a letter to headquarters at the end of each and every month bragging about our accomplishments (or trials) and warning of the mighty deeds we had in mind for the next month. What does it matter? I doubt that anyone ever read them then or are doing so now.

It was the beginning of live hog grading and of the campaign to ship Wiltshire sides to Britain. Any resemblance of hogs in that district to bacon type was purely coincidental and I set out to change that using Junior Swine Clubs as vehicles. And it worked on the hogs, the children enjoyed it, and the parents went along. At one time I had 50 federal boars on loan in the area.

And then there was poultry. Most farm flocks had no pride of ancestry and laid eggs in the spring when the crows returned to the prairies — perhaps giving the chickens the signal that it was time to 'get with it'. A project titled Accredited Flocks introduced the purchase of baby chicks (thus doing the hens out of their principal function), brooding with stoves, good nutrition, and good housing. This led to previously unheard-of production though a 200-egg hen was exceptional in those days. It led also to the less successful project of a farmer-owned hatchery which enjoyed one very prosperous season. Too rapid affluence, pullorum disease in chicks, and the building of a home-made incubator, finally resulted in the bank-

ruptcy of the company in which the DA also lost some dollars.

There were some compensations in the service — salary not being one of them — and among these I count the training and sending to Toronto of 26 provincial Junior Clubbers and 4-Hers. One other was our job as pioneers in introducing the DA service to the farmers of Alberta, whether for better or for worse is a matter of opinion.

I believe I am the senior living ex-DA and there are times when I don't feel a day over 100.

About the Author:

Fred H. Newcombe served as DA in Vegreville from 1924-1935 and in Red Deer from 1935-1939. Following service in the Canadian Armed Forces, he returned to the department in 1945 as DA at Edmonton and was appointed supervisor of DA's later that same year. In 1949 he became director of the extension division, a position he held until his retirement in 1959. He was admitted to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1973.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

Alberta Wheat Pool — Vegreville

Vegreville purchased a 53,900 bushel elevator originally built in 1920 from Alberta Pacific Grain Co. Ltd. in June of 1927. A temporary balloon annex of 39,500 bushels was built in 1941 by F. W. McDougall Construction Co.

The present elevator was built in 1957 and a bulk fertilizer plant in 1964. Land has been purchased to build a new elevator on the western outskirts of the town, with plans underway for new facilities in 1980.

The handlings at Vegreville were highest in 1976-77 at 824,979 bushels while the lowest were in 1935-36 at 45,000 bushels. Their total handlings to date come to 12,941,274 bushels (25,513 tonnes).

Elevator Managers who have operated Alberta Wheat Pool's facilities at Vegreville are listed below with their dates of service:

Agent's Name From To

J. R. Moore — Nov.16/28-Apr.17/37

E. W. Code — Apr.17/37-Sep.25/44

J. E. Parks — Sep.25/44-Jul.15/47

H. E. Ripley — Jul.15/47-June 10/54

W. E. Smith — June 10/54-Aug.1/56

W. R. Weller — Aug.1/56—Aug.13/65

C. R. Rennie — Aug.19/65-Jul.1/69

H. H. Harsulla — Jul.14/69-Jan.1/77

D. J. Gordash — Jan.31/77-to present.

Alberta Wheat Pool — Warwick

Warwick had a 40,000 bushel elevator built in 1929 by F. W. McDougall Construction Company with a permanent balloon annex added in 1956 at 41,000 bushels.

Alberta Wheat Pool purchased a 32,000 bushel elevator, built in 1929, from Federal Grain Limited on March 16, 1972. The 34,000 bushel crib annex was also bought at this time but was sold in November, 1978.

Warwick has had handlings of 6,624,502 bushels (4,529 tonnes) at all elevators to date. The highest handlings occurred in 1975-76 at 447,903 bushels and the lowest at 15,418 in 1936-37.

Elevator Managers who have operated Alberta Wheat Pool's facilities at Warwick are listed below with their dates of service:

Agent's Name From To

F. Olsen — Sept. 18/29-Aug. 12/30
A. L. Forester — Aug. 12/30-Mar. 16/31
J. Russell — Mar. 16/31-Jul. 1/31
J. Jesten — Jul. 1/31-Dec. 18/34
O. E. Jesten — Dec. 18/34-Aug. 1/40
F. J. French — Aug. 1/40-June 19/42
C. W. Campbell — June 19/42-Apr. 29/46
C. R. Langpap — Apr. 29/46-June 4/57
N. Kurceba — June 4/57-Jul. 31/64
N. A. Lefsrud — Jul. 7/64-Apr. 29/70
R. W. Sirant — Apr. 24/70-Dec. 11/72
K. R. Shank — Jan. 8/73-June 30/77
D. Vopni — July 19/77-Apr. 30/78
W. J. Parsons — May 1/78-Aug. 15/78
J. S. Chilibecki — Sept. 1/78-to present

Alberta Wheat Pool — Inland

The first elevator in Inland was built in 1928 by F. W. McDougall Construction Company. It held 38,000 bushels and was destroyed by fire July 5, 1945. It's 35,000 bushel balloon annex was also destroyed by this fire as well as two loxtaves (8-sided storage annex) at a total capacity of 20,000 bushels. In 1945 Elevator Builders' Limited built a 52,000 bushel elevator and added a Crib Annex to this in 1949 at a capacity of 43,000 bushels.

The total handlings at Inland to date are 5,959,192 bushels (7,304 T.) The high was in 1971-72 at 211,862 bushels and the low at 38,255 bushels in 1947-48.

Elevator Managers who have operated Alberta Wheat Pool's facilities at Inland are listed below with their dates of service:

Agent's Name From To

F. T. Mitchell — Nov. 16/28-Aug. 15/33
W. E. Schmidt — Aug. 15/33-Dec. 10/40
S. K. Smith — Dec. 10/40-Oct. 30/43

F. R. Kolodychuk — Oct. 30/43-Apr. 1/44

G. Suder — Apr. 1/44-June 23/45

E. R. Hodson — June 23/45-Jul. 23/45

Elevator burned — Jul. 24/45-Sep. 1/45

W. E. Smith — Sept. 1/45-June 8/54

A. A. Baker — June 8/54-Jul. 29/55

F. H. Wilkinson — Jul. 29/55-May 1/58

H. A. Williams May 1/58-June 30/60

E. G. Caney — June 30/60-Dec. 9/63

R. G. Hanson — Dec. 9/63-Aug. 14/64

D. L. Rude — Aug. 14/64-Aug. 28/67

R. W. Sirant — Aug. 28/67-Apr. 24/70

E. S. O'Dell — Apr. 23/70-May 9/72

M. J. Dary — May 8/72-Apr. 10/78

M. Thorowski — Apr. 10/78-to present.

Alberta Wheat Pool — Royal Park

Royal Park had a 40,000 bushel elevator built by F. W. McDougall Construction Company in 1928. A crib annex was added in 1967 at 58,500 bushels. Two loxtaves were built in 1959 at 9,000 bushels each. Alberta Wheat Pool also purchased several elevators from Federal Grain in 1972. They included a 27,000 bushel elevator built in 1917, and a balloon annex for 30,000 bushels built in 1956. In addition a 27,000 bushel elevator built in 1928 and a 35,000 bushel balloon annex built in 1957. Finally, a 32,000 bushel elevator was built in 1920.

Royal Park has handled 4,399,238 bushels (5,472 tonnes) of grain to date. Their highest handling occurred in 1971-72 with 266,551 bushels of grain and their lowest in 1947-48 at 12,956 bushels.

Elevator managers who have operated Alberta Wheat Pool's facilities at Royal Park are listed below with their dates of service:

Agent's Name From To

A. Smith — Nov. 16/28-Aug. 17/31
S. W. Hilts — Aug. 17/31-Aug. 8/38
G. L. Calder — Aug. 8/38-Mar. 28/40
R. G. Ferguson — Mar. 28/40-June 1/51
W. R. Weller — June 1/51-Jul. 8/54
B. H. Weder — Jul. 8/54-Aug. 10/59
G. P. Cordingley — Aug. 10/59-Nov. 25/64
W. W. Wengreniuk — Nov. 19/64-Aug. 22/67
R. R. Zadderey — Aug. 22/67-Mar. 2/70
J. Tymchyshyn — Feb. 27/70-Apr. 10/72
O. E. Pysklywyc — Apr. 17/72-Apr. 23/73
B. W. Sirant — Apr. 19/73-Dec. 20/74
Royal park No 2 — sold for dismantling — Apr. 12/73
P. T. Kereluk — Jan. 1/75-May 1/78
M. J. Dary — May 1/78-to present.

Alberta Wheat Pool — Lavoy

Lavoy's elevator was built in 1932 by F. W. McDougall Construction Company. It had a capacity of 52,000 bushels. A temporary balloon annex was

added in 1940 at 30,000 bushels. Two loxtaves of 10,000 bushels each were built around 1940.

The handlings at Lavoy were highest in the year 1971-72 at 397,627 bushels. The low was in 1947-48 at 33,772. To date 7,686,690 bushels have been handled (6,606 tonnes).

Elevator Managers who have operated Alberta Wheat Pool's facilities at Lavoy are listed below with their dates of service:

Agent's Name From To

J. Burnett — Nov.16/28-Nov.5/29
M. D. Armitage — Nov.5/29-Aug.12/30
J. Burnett — Aug.12/30-Apr.7/42
K. K. Moen — Apr.7/42-Mar.21/44
J. C. Armitage — Mar.21/44-Jul.16/52
W. D. Puffer — Jul.16/52-Jul.24/57
H. Harsulla — Jul.24/57-Jul.14/69
G. H. Kolodychuk — June 18/69-Dec.8/75
G. A. Cochrane — Feb.2/76-April 11/79
G. Muntz — Apr.11/79-to present.

Alberta Wheat Pool — Fitzallen

A 29,500 bushel elevator was built at Fitzallen in 1932 by Province Elevator Company. This was sold to Alberta Wheat Pool July 27, 1932. This same elevator was wrecked in September, 1974. A 41,000 bushel annex built in 1950 by Elevator Builders Limited was also wrecked at that time.

The lowest handlings at Fitzallen elevator were in 1947-48 at 9,782 bushels, while the high was at 129,793 bushels in 1952-53. The total receipts from 1932-1968 totalled 2,489,374 bushels. The elevator was closed in 1968-69.

Elevator managers who have operated Alberta Wheat Pool's facilities at Fitzallen are listed below with their dates of service:

Agent's Name From To

L. C. Fleet — Aug.17/32-May 9/35
H. G. Botsford — May 9/35-May 10/37
C. Fuller — May 10/37-July 23/54
W. R. Weller — July 23/54-July 25/56



Alberta Wheat Pool banquet honoring all charter members in the Vegreville district, February 1973. Alberta Wheat Pool was formed in 1923.

D. R. Congdon — July 25/56-June 30/58

P. J. McNamara — June 30/58-June 1/59

O. W. Oltsmanns — June 1/59-Jan.16/61

Delegates who have been elected to represent the membership in the sub-district at the Pool's Annual Meeting, which includes Mundare, Royal Park, Vegreville, Lavoy, Inland, Warwick and Fitzallen are as follows:

Name Home Town Dates of Service

A. R. Brown — Westlock — 1923-24
A. W. Fraser — Vegreville — 1925-33
S. O. Nay — Mundare — 1934
W. F. F. Shaw — Vegreville — 1935-37
John O. Nay — Hilliard — 1938-39
A. W. Fraser — Vegreville — 1941-42
G. L. Harrold — Lamont — 1942-43 (Director 1943)
Arthur H. Johnston — Lamont — 1944
J. S. Kubin — Vegreville — 1945-48
George Ziegler — Vegreville — 1949-65
M. D. Russel Goshko — Vegreville — 1966-77
Orest Farion — Vegreville — 1978-to date.

The following have served the above district as one of the Directors on the Pool's seven-man Board.

Name Home Town Dates of Service

W. J. Jackman — Bremner — 1926-27
George Bennett — Mannville — 1927-43
Gordon L. Harrold — Lamont — 1943-77 (President 1957-77)
William Davidiuk — Grassland — 1977-to date.

Vegreville and District Co-op

Courtesy of Vegreville Observer, April 26, 1979

Vegreville and District Co-op held their 50th Annual meeting in the Legion Hall in Vegreville on April 19, 1979.

The incorporation took place March 3, 1929, in the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator office with John Lowe, Elmer Meyer, Robert Wilson, Harry Payne, Albert E. Jennings, M. Kostash, A. L. Hulett and Ernest Karrer signing the incorporation papers.

The first orders were put together by Robert Wilson followed by Earl Code, the Wheat Pool agent. The first store operation started in the early 1940's in part of what is now the 5¢ to \$1.00 with Barney Cummings as manager, assisted by Marie Giebelhaus. In 1944 the Co-op purchased Vegreville Grocery, followed in 1948 by Sheldons Western Ltd. and in 1968 the I.G.A. store. In July 1974 the association moved to the present shopping center.

In 1967 the Service Centre with Lumber Yard was completed and opened.

During 1968 and 1969 amalgamations took place with Two Hills Co-op, Mundare Co-op and Park Co-op at Mundare.

Solonetzic Soils Substation

by Irvin Cowan

Mr. Justice John Decore, then M.P. for Vegreville, along with various farm organizations and the Chamber of Commerce in the 1950's, pressed the then Minister of Agriculture, J. G. Gardiner, for the establishment of a Research Station at Vegreville to study Solonetzic soils and other agricultural problems of north-eastern Alberta. Apparently Mr. Gardiner promised such a unit, but was frustrated somewhat by opposition with the bureaucracy. Vegreville ended up with a Soils Research Substation designed exclusively to study serious problems connected with the 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 acres of those salt — affected soils occurring in western Canada. The station was started in 1956 when all the land was in summerfallow. In 1957 Dr. Ross Cairns came from the Headquarters of the Research Branch in Ottawa to design and conduct the research program.



1979 Staff of the Solonetzic Soil Substation, 1979. Standing (l. to r.) — Ernie Gizowski, Nestor Zubreski, Mike Sturmey, Irvin Cowan. Seated: Jean Erickson (l.) and Dr. Ross Cairns (r.).



The Solonetzic Soil Substation at Vegreville, Alberta, ½ mile east on highway #16, 1979.

The bureaucracy appeared to never forgive the Vegreville people for having the unit established over their objections. In 1957, Dr. Cairns was told that the Unit would be kept for no longer than five years as it was simply established to satisfy local pressure. However, with co-operation from the University of Alberta, the Province and many farmers, the Substation found successful methods of improving production and reclaiming the soils. Since none of the larger Research Stations had achieved any success with these problem soils, it became difficult to close the Unit. However, the resentment continued and the Unit was continually under-funded and understaffed. One solace was that in years of austerity the Vegreville budget was rarely cut, because there was nothing to cut.

In spite of the difficulties, widespread co-operation and a determined and efficient support staff allowed Vegreville to go from one success to another until it became world famous for its work. It established that surface drainage was a prerequisite to any effort to increase production on these soils. It established that the judicious use of nitrogen fertilizers was very profitable and would lead to the gradual reclamation of Solonetzic soils. It established that many Solonetzic soil types could be reclaimed by deep plowing and showed how to identify the soils that could be reclaimed. It showed that certain non-Solonetzic acid soils could also be greatly improved by deep plowing. It found that gypsum could lead to the reclamation of Solonetzic soils, if activated by being used in conjunction with ammonium nitrate fertilizer. It found that Solonetzic soils in southern Alberta would produce excellent crops under irrigation, if dryland reclamation procedures were adopted.

During the course of this work, seven Graduate Students at the University of Alberta received their Master's or Doctor's degrees for research conducted in collaboration with Dr. Cairns. He sat on their graduate committees. These students are now excel-



Discussion of Solonetzic soil problems during the Annual Field Day, 1958.

lent scientists in their own right. Over the years a conscious effort was made to give summer jobs at the Substation to Vegreville and district students. These were excellent employees, who are now leaders in many walks of life. Many of these employees return to Vegreville to reminisce. It was not all work at Vegreville, a reasonable bit of fun was always available. The Stenographers were many and wonderful. Besides their official duties they mowed lawns, washed glassware in the Laboratory, and sometimes even cleaned the office.

The permanent staff members in 1979 were:

Dr. Ross Cairns: Officer-in-Charge, 22 years.

Dr. Cairns was born at Richmond, Ontario. Educated in Jasper Public School, Jasper, Ontario; Smiths Falls Collegiate Institute, Smiths Falls, Ontario, Ontario Agricultural College (University of Toronto), Guelph, Ontario; McDonald College (McGill University), Montreal, Quebec; Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. and a Post Doctorate at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Cairns is married and has two children. He was founder of the Dr. Ross Cairns School for the Retarded; President (twice) of the Vegreville Rotary Club; Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge in Vegreville; District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the B.P.O.E.; Warden of St. Mary's Anglican Church; Life Member of the Hungarian Society of Soil Science; a Mason; Branch President of Agricultural Institute of Canada; Member of Canadian Society of Soil Science; Member of Alberta Institute of Agrology; Member of Alberta Soils Advisory Committee; Member of Chamber of Commerce, Vegreville, etc. He has published 32 research papers: 28 in English, 1 in Russian and 3 in Hungarian. He has prepared 34 other scientific articles; 224 Symposium seminars, Research Reports, Press Releases, T.V. Programs, talks to various farm and other groups. Three more research papers are currently being published. His wife Marion has been active in curling, the church, the Order of the Eastern

Star, the Royal Purple, and more recently in the Conservative Party. His son John is mentally retarded and resides at Mitchener Centre, Red Deer, Alberta. His son Paul, graduated from the University of Alberta, and is employed as Customer Services representative with Alberta Power at Lloydminster.

Irvin Cowan: Technician, 24 years.

Irvin was born at Halkirk, Alberta (and in his very early years experienced first-hand the effects of the "dirty thirties" on the Solonetzic soils that abounded in that area). Schooled in the Halkirk-Stettler area he worked on the family farm and also worked for various farmers in the area. After completing his schooling he began working at the Lacombe Research Station where he remained for three years before transferring to Vegreville in 1955, when the land was purchased for the Solonetzic Soil Substation. During the early years of the Substation, Irvin was involved in the development of all facets of the work including buildings, works, field areas and research plots. He became increasingly responsible for technical work throughout the years when the many exciting solutions toward solving the Solonetzic soils problems were discovered, such as soil and seedbed management, application of nitrogen fertilizers and deep plowing. He attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in 1971-72 and has taken various short courses related to his work. Irvin is married to Norma and they have two children, David and Diane who are attending school in Vegreville. Irvin obtained his Private Pilot's license in 1960 but hasn't flown extensively. He is an Instructor of the Defensive Driving Course, having instructed well over 500 students since 1966. He is the President of the local branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society and Secretary-Treasurer of the Lavoy R.E.A.L. Irvin says that his life has been enriched as a result of living in this community.

Jean Erickson: Clerk Regulatory, 8 years.

After working several years for Treasury Branch, Bank of Montreal, Alberta Power, Jean joined the permanent staff of Agriculture Canada, Solonetzic Soil Substation in 1971. Her position offers a variety of jobs such as Receptionist, Typing, Filing, Book-keeping, Weather records and assisting in the Laboratory and greenhouse when required. She was born at Vermilion, Alta. and received her schooling at such places as Wainwright, Islay, Kinsella, finishing at Vegreville. Over the years Jean has been active in various community affairs such as United Church Choir, I.O.D.E., United Church Women, Order of Eastern Star, 4-H Club, Curling Club, Community Band, and Legion. Jean is married and has three children and resides two miles northeast of Ranfurly where her husband Alvin farms. Dean resides at



Increased production of brome grass caused by the application of nitrogen (ammonium nitrate fertilizer) to a Solonetz soil at Vegreville, 1978.

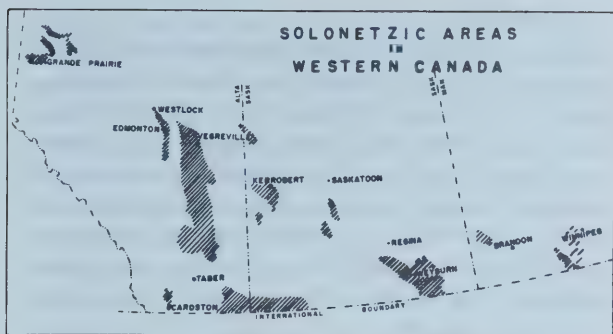


FIGURE 1. Solonchek areas in Western Canada

Solonchek Areas in Western Canada, 1979.

home and works with his father in the electrical field. Ingrid is married and resides on a farm north of Viking with her husband Gene and son Jared. Desiree resides at home and attends school at Innisfree. Besides farming, Alvin has entered the electrical field. He is a Steward in the United Church, Past Master of St. John's Lodge, Member of the Legion, Member of the Elks, Liaison Officer for the Legion with the Community Band as well as member of the Band, and also has his own orchestra. Also enjoys curling and golfing.

Mike Sturmey: Technician, 23 years.

Mike was born at Innisfree, Alberta. He took his primary and secondary education at Lezniew School, Stubno, Alberta. He took his High School by correspondence and attended Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Edmonton, Alberta in 1971/72. He was married on April 22/61 to JoAnn Horon of Lavoy, Alberta, and they have three children. Ross, his oldest son, is in Grade 12 at Vegreville Composite High. He has curled in the Provincial playdowns. The twins (boy and girl) are at home. His wife has been employed by the Bank of Montreal from 1960 to present. The Sturmays lived in Vegreville for 15 years and in 1977 they built a home near Lavoy where they enjoy living on the farm. Mike is interested in agriculture and has actively farmed from 1963 to the present. He enjoys carpentry and has built a number of campers. His hobbies are fishing, hunting and curling.

Ernie Vernon Gizowski: Technician, 13 years.

Ernie was born at Vegreville, Alberta, on September 29, 1944. He attended New Kiew School from Grades one to three. New Kiew School was then closed and students were bussed to Lavoy Community where he attended Elementary and Junior High until Grade nine. Grades ten to twelve were taken at Peter Svarich High School in Vegreville. He graduated from High School in 1963. Following that he farmed and carpentered with his father until 1966. Employed at Canada Agriculture, Soil Research Sta-

tion since Oct. 3, 1966. Part-time farmed since that date. Married in February of 1975. One daughter, Kimberley Dawn, born March 30, 1976. Wife Dianne is employed part-time with Attorney General's Department in Vegreville. Hobbies are hunting, fishing, farming, etc.

Nestor Zubreski: Farm Foreman, 24 years.

Nestor was born and raised at Slawa, Alberta, in the Myrnam District. He moved to the Vegreville District at Royal Park the spring of 1947, where he farmed with his father. In 1952 he moved to the Town of Vegreville where he worked for a year, then worked for the C.N.R. on the railway for two years. He started work with the Canada Department of Agriculture in 1955 at Vegreville. Nestor belongs to the Ukrainian Creek Orthodox Church and sings in the church choir. He made a record with the choir for the Centennial Year. He takes an active part in curling and does some bowling. He has been a member of the Lions Club for over 15 years and was President of the club for the year 1971/72. He takes part in other community activities as well.

There has been very intensive farmer interest in the Vegreville program and more than once the farmers of Alberta through their organizations and Municipal Councils have requested greater support for the work. There has also been very great interest in the work on the part of foreign scientists. The United States Department of Agriculture sent a team to Vegreville in 1967. On their return they initiated Deep Plowing research in the United States. Individual scientists and teams have been sent to Vegreville for varying periods of time from Australia, Hungary, the United States, India, Africa, Japan. A Professor, Raul Lavado of Argentina spent all of 1979 working at Vegreville. The highlight of these activities occurred in 1978, when about 300 foreign scientists visited Vegreville. During those tours, Professor Kovda, U.S.S.R., recognized by many as the world's leading soil scientist, publicly declared that Dr. Cairns was one of the world's great soil scientists.

As much as may have been accomplished to 1979, much remains to be achieved. A great many of the findings must be applied to the reclamation of coal-mined land in Alberta. The role of subsurface drainage in the irrigation of Solonchek soils must be investigated. The chemical control of salt movement must be studied. There is a glowing future for a vibrant, dedicated research unit at Vegreville — if only the bureaucrats have the foresight. Dr. Cairns retired in December, 1979, and leaves a legacy of success for his successor.

Vegreville Rural Fire Protection Assoc Ltd. by Fred Duke

Prior to 1962 rural residents in the Vegreville area experienced many difficulties in obtaining fire protection.

Two fire trucks were owned by the Town of Vegreville, one very old and the other not adequate for rural use. When Fire Chief Armand Mercier received a call from outside the town limits, he had to obtain the Mayor's permission to use town equipment for rural fire-fighting purposes. Should the Fire Insurance Company have become aware of the fact that the fire trucks were leaving town, the insurance premiums no doubt would have been raised considerably.

In order to rectify the situation, Armand Mercier approached a number of the Rural Farmers and suggested they form an Association, sell shares and purchase a fire truck for rural purposes. The town would house and man it for its use in the town when needed.

Upon this approach, a number of farmers held a meeting in the Fire Hall April 6/62 as to the type of organization it should be. A delegation went to Leduc to find out how their organization worked. It was finally decided it should be a co-op organization. An application was then signed by ten men namely: Rene Dubuc, Marko Shewchuk, Daniel Giebelhaus, Michael Barlott, H. R. Fuller, W. R. Buckland, E. J. Melenka, C. Steinbach, Nick Kuzz, Edward Baxandall. The application was sent to Mr. Webber, Supervisor of Co-operative Activities and Credit Unions for approval and registration April 25/62. Later a certificate of Incorporation No. 1197 was received enabling them to sell shares. These same men plus a few more proceeded to sell shares at \$50.00 each. By March 2/63 they had collected and put in trust at the Treasury Branch by W. Kennedy as Treasurer, \$10,-250.00.



Vegreville Rural Fire Truck, 1970's.

At the March 2/63 meeting it was then necessary to elect a Board of Directors from the meeting. The nine directors elected were Clair Ziegler, Harold Fuller, Jim Maciborski for three years; Willard Chappell, Orest Farion, Ed Sanford for two years; Daniel Giebelhaus, Nick Kuzz, Ron Porayko for one year. A directors' meeting was then held: Clair Ziegler was elected President, Dan Giebelhaus — Vice-President, Willard Chappell had acted as temporary secretary until March 14/62 when I, Fred H. Duke, was asked to be secretary.

Permission from Mr. Webber was asked for and we were permitted to go ahead and purchase a fire truck as the directors felt we would have sufficient money to pay for the truck on arrival. With the advice of Armand Mercier, Fire Commissioner Bridges and Deputy, tenders were then asked for and posted.

On April 26/63, a tender by Saskatoon Fire Engine Co. of Calgary was accepted — a Dodge truck, with special engine, carrying 750 gals. water and accessories at \$13,500.00. The truck was received in time to show at the Fair, 1963.

First fire call — September 5/63. We have had excellent co-operation with the Firemen and Town of Vegreville. The Fire Chief, now Orville Tebbutt, has complete control of the second fire truck, bought and paid for November 2/73. The wages for firemen were nil up until January 1/65 when each fireman was paid \$1.00 for answering the siren, and men going out with truck \$2.50 per hour. Armand Mercier passed away May 4/64 and Clair Ziegler was president of the association until his resignation December 18/64 but remained a director till his passing May 16/66.

The wages now paid firemen are \$4.00 each for answering the siren and \$10.00 per hour going out on call.

The directors at present are Andrew Olineck, Paul Bay, Edward Baxandall, Marko Shewchuk, Gail Trimble, Orest Berezan, Ed. Sanford, Willard Chappell and Orest Farion.

Others that have served on the Board for a minimum of three years or more: Jacob Dekker, Orest Fodchuk, Leonard Ferguson, Ron Porayko, J. O. Duk, Metro Lukenchuk, Wm. Giebelhaus and Fred H. Duke, still Secretary.

We now have a membership of 354.

National Radio Farm Forum by Gladys Nicholson

The Farm Forum was the national radio program heard in the 1940's and 50's. Park Grove Forum was organized in 1941 and had about 48 members.

The Farm Forum meetings in Park Grove were a real pleasant gathering of farm neighbors. We made a habit of gathering every Monday night to listen to the

C.B.C. National Farm Radio Program over the air. We listened to the topic being discussed by a panel of speakers, mostly on topics of national or international concern. Then, when the broadcast was over, we all got together in small groups and drew our own conclusions. The secretary of the group would then write down all our conclusions and report them to the National Radio Farm Forum secretary. This information was then passed on to the interested Government or other agencies, such as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and others.

Every fourth week the opinions from across Canada were heard and this helped greatly in understanding other people's problems. In this way the opinions of the people were channeled to where they could do the most good.

After the opinions of all groups in the Park Grove Farm Forum were recorded, the evening would then turn into a card party, ending with coffee, sandwiches and cake being served. These gatherings were always well attended and enjoyed by the members of the community.

There were also groups at Brush Hill, Lavoy, Royal Park, Waskawa and Warwick.

County of Minburn No. 27

The County of Minburn is situated in the parkland area east of Edmonton, straddling Highway 16, with headquarters at Vegreville. It consists of approximately 27 townships of good to excellent mixed farming land, stretching from eight miles west of Vegreville east to Vermilion, a distance of approximately 55 miles.

The municipal function is administered by seven Councillors, who also sit as a School Committee with six Town and Village representatives. The rural population of the County is approximately 5500, slightly higher than the population of the Town of Vegreville. The County operates eight school centres ranging from a one-room Hutterian Brethren School to a new 2½-million-dollar Composite High School in Vegreville. One hundred and thirty teachers are employed to teach 2500 children in the system. Fifty contract school buses convey rural students to the various school centres. The operation budget of the County, ten years ago, was in excess of three million dollars.

The history of the County may be traced to 1906, at which time the four township Local Improvement Districts were established. Records show the Secretary-Treasurer's salaries at \$100.00 per year, road construction employees at twenty cents per hour, man and team forty cents per hour. Tax rate was three cents per acre.

In 1913, nine Township Local Improvement Districts were formed. Between 1914 and 1918 four of the Local Improvement Districts which were later to become the major portion of the present County chose to become the Municipal Districts of Lakeview No. 454, Birch Lake No. 484, Buffalo Coulee No. 453, and Melberta No. 483, (named after Mel Cundal, a councillor and later secretary-treasurer, and his wife Alberta). The major difference in Local Improvement District and Municipal District operation was that the Local Improvement Districts levied taxes on an acreage basis while the Municipal Districts levied on an assessment basis.

The change from four to nine Township Local Improvement Districts in 1913 prompted other changes - Secretary-Treasurers were paid from \$250 to \$350 per year, Councillors received from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per day and ten cents per mile, a man earned thirty cents per hour, man and team fifty cents per hour. Tax rates increased to five cents per acre.

It is interesting to note that "growth" in rural government units was usually instituted under protest from local councils. Establishment of school divisions was protested in 1936 and 1937. Between 1937 and 1939, Councils of the four small Municipal Districts vigorously protested the proposed formation of the enlarged Municipal District. Records indicate receipt of a letter from the Alberta Educational Council "objecting to the method of introducing the County Act." Changes in boundaries arising from action by the Co-terminious Boundaries Commission in 1954 were opposed. Conversely, as early as 1952, the Council of the Municipal District of Minburn No. 72 indicated approval of the County System, and in 1963 the Vegreville School Division proposed a change to the County form of government.

As difficult as it is to finance local government services today, there is no doubt that it is easier than it was in the "good old days". It was common practice to appoint a collector of tax arrears on a commission basis, usually five per cent. One hundred and thirty-one quarters of land were offered at a tax sale in a nine Township Municipal District in 1934 — twice the usual offer in the four times as large County today. A six-quarter parcel was sold for \$1,700.00 in 1934. The "hungry 30's" produced the practice of "working off" taxes, where ratepayers worked on road construction and applied earnings to their tax accounts. The Provincial Government encouraged the practice by offering a road grant of \$1.00 for every \$2.00 of tax arrears "worked off".

Of course, municipal government of early days had expenditures unheard of today. In 1930, the Municipal District of Melberta employed a man "to make coffins — one to be in stock at all times".

Payment of bounties on gopher tails in the 1930's was usual.

Financing education was as much of a problem years ago as it is today. 1947 records indicate advice from the Vegreville School Division to the Municipal District that the Alberta Teachers' Association was demanding a further increase in teachers' salaries equivalent to six mills.

Assessment appeals seemed to be the order of the times in early local government. It was not unusual to launch an appeal against all assessments in a Municipal District. Nor was it unusual for a Council to request a flat reduction of 25% on all assessments, as was done in 1925. In 1938, the Buffalo Coulee Court of Revision, unable to cope with 249 appeals, called the Chief Assessor and was promptly told, "You have a job to do — get busy and do it."

The Honourable R. G. Reid, former Premier of Alberta, first got his political feet wet in 1917, when he was elected to the council of the Municipal District of Buffalo Coulee. He served for four years, two of them as Reeve. In 1921, he was elected to the Legislature, was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs, and later became Premier.

Public Works was as much the main function of a council fifty years ago as it is today. In 1913 one Municipal District purchased 27 slip scrapers at \$7.75 each. A 1925 machine list shows "30 scrapers, 2 wheelers, 26 fresnos, 12 ploughs, 11 drags, and five graders." First mention of a road grant was made in 1924, and amounted to \$1,700 for one Municipal District. A shortage of machinery during the Second World War curtailed road work.

Health Services consumed much of a council's time in early Municipal Government. Mannville Municipal Hospital District No. 1, the first in the Province, was established in 1918. Temporary emergency hospitals were established to cope with the influenza epidemic in the same year. 1920 records show a tax levy of 1.5 cents per acre in Birch Lake Municipal District to pay a "flu" debenture. Diphtheria in 1923, infantile paralysis in 1937, and sleeping sickness in 1938 were dealt with by Councils. "Free" doctor plans were established in the area as early as 1930, and a "free" hospital plan was instituted in the Mannville area in 1948. Health units, a home for the aged, and an auxiliary hospital followed.

Provision of seed grain and welfare (known then as relief) came into being in 1918 and 1919. In the "dirty 30's" both functions became the major work of councils, and many days were devoted to investigation and approval of relief cases and collection of seed grain advances. One Municipal District found it necessary to put a ceiling of \$75.00 on burial

expenses which were the responsibility of the Municipality. A municipal inspector's comment in 1937 noted that relief expenditures were completely out of proportion to total revenue. Municipal minutes record a court case in which a relief recipient charged a municipal district with providing him with insufficient assistance. The Municipal District was fined \$50.00 and costs, but the decision was reversed upon appeal.

Two wars produced interesting items. In 1917, grants to the Patriotic Fund were usual. In 1918 it is noted in one Municipal District's minutes that it was publicly stated, "That Council has turned down a proposal to make a levy for the Patriotic Fund, and the chairman, an Old Country Englishman, had voted it down." A denial was published in the Edmonton Bulletin. In 1940, one Municipal District made a grant of \$1,000 to the Minister of Finance to assist with the war effort, and one council agreed in 1941, that each councillor contribute \$25 of his municipal earnings to the Canadian War Services Fund. Donations to the Red Cross and Salvation Army were made each year.

First mention of affiliation with the Municipal Association was recorded in 1914. In 1915, a delegate was sent to the Municipal Convention by Lakeview Municipal District, with \$25.00 for expenses. Hail insurance is noted in 1919 records. A petition for rural mail delivery south and east of Mannville was made in 1930.

In 1942 when the four small Municipal Districts were amalgamated to form the enlarged Municipal District of Minburn No. 453, the Village of Minburn was centrally located and considered the logical location for the Municipal District office. However, banking facilities were lacking at Minburn, and the Villages of Innisfree and Mannville promptly made a bid for the office. It is interesting to note that the Treasury Branch offered to construct a building in Minburn, part of which would be rented to the Municipal District, provided that the Municipal District transferred its banking business to the Treasury Branch. In a split vote, Council rejected the offer, and instead accepted a grant of \$1,200 from the Village of Mannville and constructed an office there. Records indicate an objection to the move by the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Municipal District seat was retained at Mannville following further enlargement of the Municipal District in 1955. When conversion to County occurred in 1965, the County seat was moved to more suitable quarters in the former School Division office at Vegreville.

Times change, people change, habits and methods change, legislation changes, but the basic prob-

lem, that of providing maximum local government services at the lowest cost, remains.

Information courtesy of “Story of Rural Municipal Government in Alberta 1909-1969.”

County Personnel

1980

The Council and its Officials:

Div. No. 1 Chester J. Gamble

Div. No. 2 A. W. Roland

Div. No. 3 William J. Gnyra

Div. No. 4 Raymond Stone

Div. No. 5 Henry A. Huculak, Reeve

Div. No. 6 Gordon J. Miller

Div. No. 7 Ron Petruk

School Committee — above plus the following:

Mannville — Stewart Nickerson

Minburn — Jack Roland

Innisfree — Mike Kozma

Lavoy — Alex Dowhey

Vegreville — A. J. Fedoruk

Vegreville — Wilfred Ursulak

Office of County of Minburn No. 27 4914-50 Street,

Box 550, Vegreville, Alberta

County Manager

Larry E. Powley

Superintendent of Schools

R. A. Gorrie

COUNCILLOR’S LAMENT

They voted for me to be Councillor

They said I could do the work.

Well, I used to be called a gentleman

Of late, I am just the “Jerk”.

The Council brought down the budget,

My portion — a very small slice.

Now how can I tell those ratepayers

That I just can’t spend it twice?

Peter hollers to get his road mended,

John yells for some gravel, too.

Bill just pleads for a culvert

And Stan simply can’t get through.

That road of his, it is one mess

And he’s “paid taxes for ages”.

He isn’t the only one with a beef,

But still he stamps and rages.

And so I go to see the mire,

Then wrack my brains how to fix it.

The water is level both sides of the road

Guess all I can do is ditch it.

And I’ll hire that culvert put in place

And I’ll spread some gravel, too.

It all costs plenty of money,

But golly! what else can I do?

And so I try to please them all.

I’ll do the best I know how.

In summer I’ll fix the roads,

In winter, I’ll send the snowplow.

Now, maybe some rest for a day or two,

The roads can’t all be bad.

But there’s that ‘phone a-ringing —

The news is sure to be sad.

My wife, she dutifully answers

And hears their tales of woe.

God bless her! she’s a wonderful woman

She has more than her row to hoe.

She tries to settle their worries,

She gives all the answers she can.

She never even gets “thank-you”,

But she bears it all like a man.

Oh yes, she tells her husband

And he sends the snow-plow down

The road to let those curlers out,

There’s a bonspiel on in town.

Now Sweet Spring and the snow has gone,

And soon the dust should fly.

But then the rain begins to fall

And there’s another hue and cry.

And so, Dear Lord, if we must have snow

Please make it heavy so it can’t blow.

And if in summer we must have rain,

Please let it fall on garden and grain.

Keep the rain and snow on the land alone,

And keep the roads as dry as a bone.

And so we Councillors say a prayer,

And pray that IF we get up THERE,

There are no roads for us to mend,

And hope we can meet ONE Taxpayer friend.

by **Hannah Reid**

(Below by Damien Shyslak)

Local Improvement District #27-M-4 was organized in August, 1904 by Lieutenant Governor in Council and included:

Township 53 Rge 15 — Div. 1

Township 54 Rge 15 — Div. 2

Township 53 Rge 16 — Div. 3

Township 54 Rge 16 — Div. 4

Councillor for Div. 1 — Peter Svarich

Councillor for Div. 2 — Joe Cherniawski and Ernest Emery

Councillor for Div. 3 — Yan Turczyn

Councillor for Div 4. — Miron Worozchuk

Secretary-Treasurer — Peter Svarich

Local Improvement District # 27-J-4 organized in 1905.

First Councillors:

J. W. J. Laird

J. E. Mahaffey

Dan McColman

Secretary-Treasurer — E. H. H. Wynn-Mackenzie

The above two Local Improvement Districts were amalgamated into Local Improvement District #515 in 1913, to form the M.D. of Norma.



Road work in front of Mel Dunham's house, 1924. (About 50 years later the road is paved.)



Hans Mayer farm 1929.



Marko Tymchuk farm, 3 gang and one triple plows, spring of 1923.

First councillors:

Joseph Hughes

D. A. Kennedy

W. A. Jones

Joe Sczur

Grant Chandler

J. W. J. Laird

Secretary-Treasurer — E. H. H. Wynn-Mackenzie.



Hans Eberhardt with his pigs, 1936.



Wyllie farm — contented horses, 1932.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trenhaile picking up potatoes with the help of Bill, 1942.

Family Histories

Adler, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer

Mr. and Mrs. Adler came to Vegreville on their honeymoon 52 years ago and have been in business ever since. They came to visit an uncle, Louis Berg,



Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Adler came to Vegreville in 1927.

in 1927. They liked the country and saw an opportunity in the area. Mr. Berg gave them their first store, a 14 by 25 building situated on the same site as the new store. Here they operated a fruit store and confectionery and soon added a lunch service. Many weeks they sold 500 lbs. of garlic sausage, and bread and mustard to go with it.

As business grew in Vegreville, local restrictions appeared that took away the freedom of merchants to serve what they like when they liked. The first one to hit Mr. and Mrs. Adler was that their store was not large enough to serve lunches and they were forced to stop this service. Now a more complete line of groceries was put into stock. It was not long though until another regulation curbed their service to the public when they were forced to close at 6 p.m. This was in 1935 and was one of the reasons for the store going into dry goods.

In 1934 Mr. Adler was able to purchase the second half of the store that was owned by an American but was rented by Sam Sysak, a barber. The same



Meyer Adler with sons Ted, Bernie and Sid. 1931.



On the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Adlers Department Store, Bernie, Mr. and Mrs. Adler and Sid. 1977.

year, they built a home behind the store and here they remained for ten years. During this time they used to seek rides to Edmonton to do their buying. Things were very different then, they mused.

In 1945 a big change came to this family when they converted their living quarters into stock rooms and purchased a store and home combined on what is now the Tom Boy property on Highway 16. Now each had a store to operate, for Mrs. Adler took full charge of the new store as well as looking after the children. The new store was a second-hand dealership and it took a little time and a few bad deals before she became a professional buyer and started to make money on her wares.

Mrs. Adler laughs as she recalls how traders found out she was not sure of the difference between mane and tail horse hair and could be hoodwinked into paying 25¢ a pound for hair that had in the centre of the bundle some that was worth only 3¢ a pound. It did not take her so long to learn how to tell a horse hide from a beef and there was a great difference in price here if you make an error. She also learned the hard way to buy furs when someone told her to imagine how she would like to wear a poor coyote hide around her neck — then she remembered. Mrs. Adler made a success of her business which also included second-hand furniture and many other items.

When it came time for the boys to go to university, Mr. Adler opened a store on 101st Street in Edmonton to see if it would be a profitable operation as it would be sensible to live in the city with four sons coming to University age. After four years it was decided that there just wasn't any place quite like Vegreville and so Mr. Adler returned. While he was away, Mrs. Adler disposed of the second-hand store, and her sons ran the store in Vegreville. As each son graduated from high school he was required to put a

year into the store — their reward — a university education. It paid off too. Bernie and Eli are both dentists in Edmonton. Ted is in the importing and manufacturing of Swedish and modern furniture in Montreal and Sidney is his father's right-hand man in all business matters.

In 1954 all the groceries were taken from the store and it became strictly dry goods.

The Sharyn Lee Dress Shop was opened in 1956. This store carried exclusive formal wear and wedding ensembles. Cyd's Shoes was opened in 1958. These two stores were moved and combined into Adler's Dept. Store when the new building built by Alex Boyko was completed in 1964.

The Alders look back over the past 50 years with satisfaction and look forward to serving the people of Vegreville for many years in the future from this beautiful store.

Mr. and Mrs. Adler came to Vegreville on their honeymoon 52 years ago and have been in business ever since. Mrs. Alder was born in Poland and came to New York in 1919. Mr. Adler was born in New York.

After completing his education, Mr. Adler worked in the New York powerhouse of the Edison Company. It did not take the same experience to open a store in those days before the complicated business of buying, income tax and the workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance. People just learned the hard way.

Four sons and one daughter were born to this family. There are now fifteen grandchildren, ten girls and five boys.

The story of their lives is that of a family sticking together for what they wanted and believed in, and the new store was one of their greatest dreams having been realized. Plans for this store had been in the making for eighteen years.

Mr. and Mrs. Adler are grateful to many of their faithful employees, and loyal friends and customers who helped make this dream come true.

Aitkens, Gene Marie nee Gene Thomas

Having a real interest in the Vegreville district, I thought I would write to you. I had two maternal uncles, Stewart and Morcomb Kitto, who settled there about 1900, married, and raised families. Stewart married Mamie Woods, and had one daughter May; Morcomb married Ethel Richardson, who lived in the brick house just outside Vegreville, and they had two daughters, Glenna and Hazel.

My connection with the district was when I went there to teach at the one-roomed Park Grove school. I wasn't 18 yet, and had pupils nearly my own age. It



Stewart and Mamie Kitto, and daughter May. About 1930.



Church services held at Park Grove School about 1926-27. Minister is Rev. Schragg. Also in group: Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Clayton Fuller, Noble Dewart, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Jennings, John Ziegler, Bill and Edwin Cunningham and some of the school children.

was my first acquaintance with ungraded schools, having received my education in Edmonton. It was a pretty traumatic experience, and I'm sure I would never have stuck it out if it hadn't been for the knowledge that "I must not let my uncle and aunt down!" -.

In the end, however, I became very fond of my pupils and the good people of the district. Often I remember my experiences, in that lonely little school house surrounded by fields, often isolated by snowdrifts. I also remember the dances on a Saturday night where I learned to do all the Square dances. There were Christmas Concerts that we began practicing for soon after Thanksgiving; the little Valentine parties, school endings in June, the play the adults of the District put on. (Mrs. Busby's Boarders). In the play, I at 18, took the part of a sophisti-

cated actress etc., etc. I kept a diary of my second year there, which I have just reread, and what memories it brought back!

If the snaps I have enclosed are of any use to you, you are welcome to them. The bit about one of our Christmas Concerts is taken from the diary, and may be of interest, also the little poem which speaks for itself.

GOOD BYE PARK GROVE

I've seen them pass thru' the schoolhouse door
For the very last time to-night,
And watched them go off down the road,
Their dinner pails gleaming bright;
'Till the only sound that comes back to me.
Is their laughter, gay and light.

And it seems that my very heart has gone
To follow them over the hill,
Leaving me here, by myself at last,
In the schoolroom cool and still;
And tho' it is over I linger yet,
It seems I have lost my will.

Just a few minutes to print these scenes
So clear they will always stay,
I know each desk, and the little face
That looked up at me each day;
They all passed out of my life I know,
When I watched them go away.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday December 21:

Platform put up at noon. Mr. Jennings, Bert Cunningham, John Ziegler, and Noble Dewart. Some boards missing so Mr. J. had to go home for more. Bert and John moved the piano and went to town. Jo came with her Pa so we practised all p.m. Filled sacks at night and up late.



Park Grove School — Boys — 1926. Back row (l. to r.) — Donald Dewart, LeRoy Fuller, Arnold Sanford, Harvey and Clarence Sanford, Robert Cunningham. Front row (l. to r.) — Mike Triska, Gordon Sanford, Walter Meyer, Harold Fuller, John Woods.

Wednesday December 22:

Worked all a.m. and part of p.m. Jo came over in p.m. Kids know their parts and are tired of practicing. I'm tireder than they are too. Jo and I put up the curtains after school.

Thursday December 23:

Just half day school. I made them work until recess but they should have been practising. It was costume drill and caused much confusion. The parents were after the kids at 12:30 and we were not nearly thru'. The boys' drill went all wrong and we had endless trouble. Anna was sick and she and Lena



Park Grove School — Girls — 1926. Back row (l. to r.) — Dorothy Sanford, Lena Lank, Nellie Salamandick, Anna Triska, Elizabeth Sartin, Gertrude Dewart, Iva Meyer, Edith Sanford, Rosalie Dake, May Kitto. Front row (l. to r.) — Evelyn Sanford, Priscilla Dewart, Jennie Salamandick, Lena Triska, Gladys Dewart, Grace Meyer, Lucille Dake.



Mr. and Mrs. Jennings. He was Sec.-Treas. of Park Grove S.D., 1920's.

were worrying for fear they could not come at night. Jo came late as Mr. J. was sick. Walter tore his pudding costume to ribbons which meant fixing it the 3rd time. Finally the kids left, Jo played her music over on the piano and I remade Walter's costume and ate a bite at the same time. May took Sis and went home.

The committee came about 1:30 p.m. We worked until dark finishing the tree by candlelight as there was no pump for the gas light. Got home late, dark and dirty. May had supper all ready. Bert and John stayed for supper and then left. We tore around on one ear for a while and finally left by sleigh. Got there rather late and it was crowded. Curtains were drawn and an excited bunch of kids in their new dresses all rarin' to go.

Noble and Clayton asked to pull curtains. Mr. McCleery was chairman. The anteroom was dressing room and we had no passageway out, so kids had to go back and forth between scenes which meant being very crowded at first. They began by being very noisy but soon cooled down. Their belongings had once been in separate little heaps but disorder soon reigned. The curtain had to be down and the anteroom was just freezing while the audience had to open the rear door. I shook so in my pink silk that I could hardly hold my book. I was glad to get out in the warmth to help pass sacks and presents. I received a hearty handclap and "Merry Christmas" and several gifts from all. Home late Saturday and ate from our sacks and had tea, then retired.

Albrecht, Henry and Margaret by Philip J. Albrecht

Henry came with his parents, the Philip Albrechts, from Norka, Russia, to Canada in May 1900. They stayed in the Glory Hills district by Stony Plain and in 1902 moved to the Martin's area 15 miles south of Vegreville.

As a twelve-year-old boy he helped his father to drag trees out of the bush to build the house and barn.

In 1912 he visited relatives in Portland and met Margaret Kruger, who had just arrived from Norka, Russia. They got married and came back to Canada to farm. They worked hard clearing the land and picking roots. They owned a steam engine and did a great deal of threshing for others. Henry had his steam engineering papers.

In 1928 they moved to the present farmstead NE 11-51-15. They had four children, Marie (Mrs. Henry Giebelhaus, deceased), Elizabeth (Mrs. Art Hall, deceased), Philip J. who is farming the home place, and Ruby, Mrs. Frank Stuart of Edmonton.

Henry passed away March 1966 and Margaret passed away June 1972.



Henry and Margaret Albrecht — wed in 1912 in Portland, Oregon.

Appleby, Clifford and Barbara **by Barbara (Ziegler)**

Barbara is the second oldest of Henry and Aggie Ziegler's family. She attended Park Grove School and the Vermilion School of Agriculture for two years. In 1944, Barbara was married to Clifford Appleby of Tofield, who is also a graduate of V.S.A.

We live on a farm three miles west of Tofield, farming with our son Kenneth. He was born August 2, 1946, and after high school attended University for 4 years. He prefers farming, so he is now living on his grandfather Appleby's farm, a mile from us.

Kenneth was married in April, 1979 to Ruth-ellen, granddaughter of the late James McCrea.

Our other son, Don Leslie, born July 28, 1948, attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary for 2 years and now works in Edmonton for R. M. Hardy as a draftsman; he lives in Edmonton where he owns a home.

Nette was born April 26, 1952, and following high-school, worked in a Toronto-Dominion Bank in

Edmonton where she met John Borosiuk who is an Assistant Manager of a Toronto Dominion Bank. They were married September 15, 1973 and have two children: Michael, born December 22, 1976 and Jennifer, born July 7, 1979. They are living in Mill Woods in their new house that they built.

Susan, our travelling daughter, was born on September 21, 1954. After finishing high school she spent eight months in Europe and since that time has been back there again and also to Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand and different parts of Canada. At present, she is working at a Tea House in Lake Louise where she enjoys hiking and is looking forward to a winter job at a ski lodge in B.C.

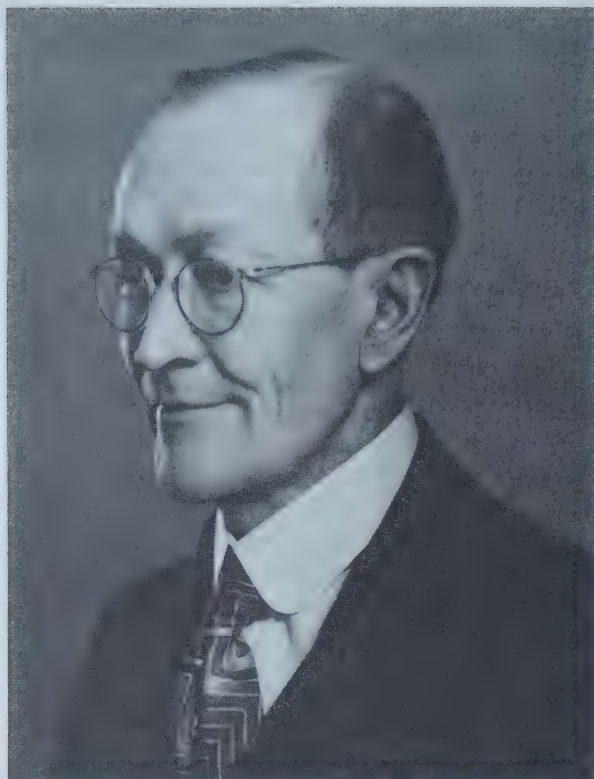
Our family is all close enough to be able to come home for visits which we enjoy very much.

Armstrong, Rev. George D. **by Verna (Armstrong) Nicholson**

The Armstrong family was in ancient times settled on the Scottish border of the British Isles. William Armstrong, founder of the Armstrong family in Tipperary, Ireland, went over there shortly after the battle of Worcester, in the reign of Charles I of England, and settled in the old castle of Tarney Bridge near Thurles. (This castle is still standing and in use). Eventually some of his descendants came to Canada, settling near Ottawa. One of these was the grandfather of G. D. Armstrong.

George Dominion Armstrong was born July 1, 1880 at Manotick, Ontario, near Ottawa. He attended Macleod St. Methodist Church and became a member of the Epworth League of Christian Endeavor. He graduated from McGill University and was ordained into the Methodist Church at Smith Falls. He married Agnes Yuill of Calabogie, Ont. and after serving a short pastorate in St. James Methodist Church in Montreal, they came west to Vegreville in 1910. Some of the citizens of Vegreville at that time were Dr. Goodwin, Dr. Rush, M. A. Worth, Willis Cole, Tom Tierney, Miss Ada I. Wright, Mr. McCleery, Mr. Hulett, and so on.

In 1912 he was moved to Wesley Methodist Church in Edmonton. (This church was later amalgamated with Robertson). While there he became a friend and staunch supporter of Mrs. Nellie McClung. (I can faintly remember Mrs. McClung asking him to proofread her book, "Sowing Seeds in Danny" before it went to the publisher). After Edmonton he was successively placed in Olds, Red Deer and Macleod (now called Fort Macleod). It was at this time that the United Church of Canada was being promoted and my father was working diligently for this cause. It so happened that the Presbyterian ministers in both Red Deer and Macleod



Dr. G. D. Armstrong, D.D., 1930's.

were bitterly opposed to the union, and Dad had real opposition to face in both these places. However, across Canada the Methodist, Congregationalist and most Presbyterian churches agreed to join forces, and on June 10, 1925, a most impressive inaugural service in Toronto brought the United Church of Canada into being. Dad was resident of the Alberta Methodist Conference at the time and so was present on that historic occasion. He then became the first secretary of the "new" United Church Alberta Conference, with a Dr. Miller (a former Presbyterian) as the first president. For his efforts to promote the union he was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

My father was always interested in people and their affairs. I can remember his enthusiasm when the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed in 1923. He regarded all men as "equals" regardless of race, color or creed — and women, too. He deliberately deleted the word "obey" from the marriage service when brides were taking their vows, and I'm sure if he were alive now he would be sponsoring women's rights to equality. Nor did he ever read verse five of Psalm 51 without expressing strong reservations.

While we lived in Coronation (1925-32), he began writing "Chimes from the Church Tower," a weekly contribution to the Coronation Review. He

was called back to Vegreville in 1932 and soon was writing again for the Vegreville Observer, calling his column "Through the Study Window."

Both my parents died in Vegreville, Mother in 1937 and Dad in 1944. Their western life started in Vegreville in 1910, and ended here in 1944. So the circle was completed.

Aronec (Aronitz), Harry and Helen

Harry and Helen both were born in the village of Vedeniw, Sniatyn, Western Ukraine, which was under Austro-Hungarian rule at the time. Harry served many years in the Austrian Army in Vienna. Completing his army services Harry and Helen emigrated to Canada. In the fall of 1900 they arrived in the Vegreville District with a young family of two sons and two daughters, in ages, 11 to 4 years; Paul, Pauline (Mrs. Wasyl Triska), Pearl (Mrs. Tom Fedoruk), and Stephen.

They settled on a homestead 9 miles north and 3 miles west of present Vegreville. In December, 1900, their first child born in Canada was Annie (Mrs. George Gordica) and in 1902 another daughter was born, Katherine (Mrs. William Moysuk). In early years Harry would go shopping for provisions to Edmonton travelling by oxen and fording the river near Fort Saskatchewan. It took him a week to get to Edmonton.

A school was built in 1905 across the road and was named Sich. The first church was built two miles west the same year, called Moskalyk. Surrounding neighbors who came a little earlier were Petruks, Fedoruks, Charuks, Philips, and Joe Stewart. Many rugged years were spent in clearing the land and turning it into grain fields.

After the marriage of the youngest daughter, Harry and Helen retired from farming in 1920 and lived in Mundare for eight years. They moved to Vegreville in 1928, and bought a house from Peter



Harry and Helen (Gordica) Aronec, 1920.

Svarich one block west of main street across from Andrew Svarich. Helen had a very large beautiful flower garden every year which consisted of numerous varieties of perennials and annuals. Harry passed away in 1945 and Helen in 1950 both at the age of 84 years. They left behind twenty-five grandchildren who live across Canada, from coast to coast and in the United States.

Aronitz Family

by Angeline (Aronitz) Hogarth

Paul Aronitz (1886-1963), son of Helen Gordica (1866-1950) and Harry Aronitz (1861-1945), moved to Vegreville from Brosseau, Alberta, and settled in the Brush Hill District with his wife Annie Sharun (1885-1959). Their three sons Peter, Harry, and John also farmed in the same area; Harry on the home place, John across the road, and Peter one mile south. Peter and Harry eventually sold their farms: John (now retired), still resides across the road from the home place, five miles north and two miles east of Vegreville.

Peter Aronitz (1909-1970) married Helen Achtemichuk of Chipman. They had four children: Sam (1930-1934), Edward, Elsie, and Agnes. Edward married Hazel Jamison, a registered nurse from Orillia, Ontario. Eddy makes his home in Red Deer, where he has been a fireman with the Red Deer Fire Department for the past 25 years. Eddy and Hazel have three children: Marrianne is a registered nurse,



John and Sophie Aronitz, about 1940.



Paul and Annie Aronitz, 1940's.

residing in California, James is studying engineering at the University of Alberta, and Brenda is attending High School in Red Deer.

Elsie, who resides in Edmonton, married Clarence Serafin (1932-1979) of Mercoal, Alberta. They have four daughters: Michele (1964-1965); Sharon, Joanne, and Georgina who are working in Edmonton.

Agnes makes her home in Port Moody, B. C. and married Bob Hilborn of Drumheller, Alberta. They have six children: Debra, who has her Bachelor of Education; Daniel who is taking journalism; Danita, Rodney and Robert (twins), and Carol who are attending High School.

Harry Aronitz (1910-1969) married Mary Makarowski and had one child, Lawrence. Lawrence married Donna Wocknitz of Magrath and presently resides in San Diego, California. Lawrence and Donna have four children: Lawrence, Kelly, Janice, and Monty — all of whom are still attending school.



Peter and Helen Aronitz, 1940's.

John Aronitz married Sophie Achtemichuk (Peter's wife's sister) and had one daughter, Angeline. Angeline has her A. R. C. T. in piano and has been teaching music for the past 25 years. She resides in Edmonton with her husband George Hogarth, a commercial artist, originally from Toronto. They have two daughters — Edith who is studying Music Therapy at the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, Kansas, U. S., and Janet who is attending High School in Edmonton.

Arthur, Dr. George

by Carrie Beamish

from information provided by his daughter, Jessie (Arthur) Tweedale

Dr. Arthur was born in P.E.I. September 11, 1866. He was educated at a country school, Alberton, and afterwards at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown. He taught school there a few years, then studied Arts, Science and Theology at Dalhousie University. He spent two years in Medical School where he met his future wife and they were married before coming West in 1895.

He was offered a post as Medical Missionary and teacher at an Indian Mission School in North-West



Back row (l. to r.) — Unknown, Rev. M. Zalizniak, Pastor and Teacher of Vegreville School for Galician Boys operated by Dr. Arthur; Mrs. (Dr.) George Arthur. Front row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Will Arthur (nee Alicia Murray), Matron of School; unknown; Dr. George Arthur, about 1915.



Presbyterian Boys' Home about 1912. 1. Thomas Chrapko, 2. Nicolas Delawsky, 3. Panko Fedorchuk, 4. John Orczyk, 5. Peter Urchak, 6. Sylvester Orletsky, 7. Mike Poohkay, 8. Nicholas Worobetz, 9. Demetro Nykoforuk, 10. John Worobetz, 11. Mike Zahoruk, 12. Paul Ruptash, 13. Willie Gorash, 14. Andrew Semeniuk, 15. Mike Rizun, 16. Willie Stuparek, 17. Willie Orzyk, 18. Joe Scharhan, 19. Stephen Urchak, 20. Willie Hrudehy, 21. Demetro Philipiuk, 22. Demetro Hrudehy, 23. Theodore Perrich, 24. Alex Diedik, 25. Stephen Tomashavsky, 26. John Pauluk, 27. Stephen Romaniuk, 28. John Zalatsky, 29. John Stephanik, 30. Eli Hotiniuk, 31. Mike Habitch, 32. Nikola Hrudehy, 33. Willie Romaniuk, 34. Alex Viniczuk, 35. John Woywetka.

Territories and was there two years, then to a Mission Field of six preaching Stations in Kinistino district of Saskatchewan. He was there five years. Then he was sent to establish a Mission in a settlement of Central Europeans in Wakaw, Saskatchewan, called Geneva Mission. He built quite a large house and had one room for a schoolroom where children came to learn to read and write in English. There were no other schools for forty miles and no doctors so he and Mrs. Arthur, who had nurse's training, were very busy. From there he went to Medical School for two more years. While in Saskatchewan he had a grist-mill

built with a steam engine so the people could get their flour made. After five years he was sent to Vegreville in 1908 as Medical Superintendent for the R.M.B. Hospital. While there he planned school homes, which he got organized and financed, where groups of twelve or more children could live under a matron, attend public school and learn Canadian ways. He had built three homes for boys and one for girls.

The Doctor made several trips to Ontario, soliciting help for this project. He was five years at this, then went into private practice in Vegreville. He helped organize Ridge Park School where his daughter, Jessie, was the first teacher.

From there he moved to Lavoy where he bought the Post Office and Telephone building, also had a small drug store; the family moved into Lavoy in 1920. Jessie taught the senior room of the school there.

Jessie Tweedale thought her father's greatest contribution in Lavoy was taking part in building the United Church, or perhaps it was all the boys and girls he helped into the world, all of whom are grown up and have families of their own now.

Jessie married Jock Tweedale in 1922 and lived on their farm south of Lavoy for thirty years. When Jock died, Jessie moved to Truro, N.S.

Genevieve lives in P.E.I.

Stuart, the only son, took over the Post Office and later went to B.C. on account of his health. He is now deceased.

Arthur, Dr. George

by Betty Hantiuk

The Vegreville area has been signally blessed with some of the most remarkable personages in all of Canada, one of these early heroes being the medical missionary, Dr. George Arthur. Many pioneering families hereabouts had reason to be grateful for the skills and compassion of this man, either because of his care of an invalid or for his other contributions to the welfare of the community.

Born in 1866 in Hazel Grove, Prince Edward Island, young George Arthur first came West at the time of the Riel unrest. Seeing the need of natives and settlers for professional help, Arthur finished his medical course and returned to the Saskatchewan territory, serving first at Wakaw, Sask. Late in 1907 he was sent by the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church of Canada to become superintendent of one of its recent projects — the newly-erected Roland M. Boswell Hospital in Vegreville. Being a far-seeing, practical man as well as a doctor, he saw the need for a facility to educate the children of scattered settlers in areas where no schools existed. Accordingly, he organized the Boys' and Girls'

Homes which served their purpose as residential schools for a number of years, offering succor and a head-start to many youngsters, some of whom became prominent citizens later.

Also interested in agriculture, Dr. Arthur invested in a farm south-east of town (3,52,14), where he built a substantial farmstead which included a tenant house for the current renter, as Dr. Arthur himself was too busy to do the actual farm work. In 1912, Dr. Arthur "retired" to Lavoy, where, from his residence (just east of the Bricker-Den Ouden house), he served as postmaster and druggist, as well as never refusing an emergency call for medical assistance. Dr. and Mrs. Arthur had three children: Jessie who married Jock Tweedale; Genevieve, now in P.E.I.; and Stuart, who farmed for a time on the Arthur farm north of Sickman Lake (later Peter Samoil farm). Dr. Arthur died at Lavoy on March 21, 1943; none of the family lives here now.

Because he was a shining example of "the horse-and-buggy doctor", Dr. Arthur became the prototype of the pioneer medical missionary in Ralph Connor's work. More importantly, he is remembered in the testimonies of our early pioneers who mention again and again the occasions when Dr. Arthur helped them through an illness or a time of trouble. Verda Dean recalls that, as a child in Ontario, she first heard of Vegreville when her mother's church group filled barrels of books and clothing to be sent to the Mission homes here, and coincidentally, when the Deans migrated to this area they bought the Vegreville farm of Dr. Arthur and lived in the big house there for a time. That home was built far off the road on the high ridge of land with the intent of providing good drainage so that the well-water would not be contaminated by farm and toilet wastes, the medical man thus setting an example of prevention of the dread diseases, such as diphtheria, prevalent then. Charlie Brinton followed the idea when he set up his first little home just north on the same ridge; the Brinton youngsters thereafter cut across the field to Ridgemark school, walking right through the old Arthur farmstead, and often stopping to play with the Otto Junker children (the tenants then) in the "big house" which seemed like a palace, with its large rooms, wide windows and elaborate woodwork.

Austin, John H.

Austin's of Ranfurly

by John H. Austin

This condensed family history starts with the arrival of Richard and Elizabeth Austin, along with Governor Winthrop, landing at Rowley, Mass. in 1638. No earlier records available. They settled in

Connecticut and Vermont, fought for Independence in the Revolution. One owned and operated a grist or flour mill powered by water wheel.

Daniel Harmon Austin and wife Roxanna moved to Missouri as missionaries to the Indians in 1821. It took all summer to make the journey by river and lake boats. They established "Harmony House", an Indian school — mission — supply depot. Rode circuit of about 80 miles a week horseback, acting as medical doctor and minister of Christian Church.

Grandfather Amasa Storrs Austin was born in Missouri, April, 1841. He married Candice Otelia Walker, a doctor's daughter. They had two sons, Philip Storrs Austin, (my father) and William Ellsworth Austin, (my uncle). The Austins apparently did well in Missouri. However, Amasa died of pneumonia in 1874 before he was 33 years of age.

Grandmother Candice, now a widow with two sons, married a widower Rev. Andrew Anderson, a methodist minister born in Sweden. He was sent to a charge in Washington territory in 1884.

Philip S. Austin attended a methodist Institute in Olympia, Wn. He then apprenticed as a storekeeper with C. N. Mills of Oakville. He married Ella Mauermann January 6, 1894 at Oakville where they established a thriving retail store business and Post Office. Their sons Francis, Joseph and John were born there 1895 to 1901.

Ella Mauerman's grandparents originated in Germany. They sailed for America in 1848, were shipwrecked in the English Channel — were rescued but lost their possessions. They were taken in and well cared for by English people. While again sailing for America my grandfather Joseph was born on a British ship to land at New Orleans in 1849. After a sailing ship voyage of 177 days.

They came up the Mississippi River by boat to St. Louie, Mo. Two years later — 1852 — they crossed the U.S. plains by ox train — suffering great privations. Barefoot children drove cattle walking all the way. Cholera wiped out many including one of great-grandmother Caroline's children. Caroline was the only woman of that ox train to survive the journey which took six months to reach the Dalles, Oregon. An ox yolk or two in Austin possession are from that historic journey.

At the beginning of 1903 the P. S. Austin store was thriving and expanding on borrowed capital. It supplied logging camps with provisions and supplies.

That spring as the log drive down the Chehalis River approached the sawmills at Aberdeen and Hoquiam a severe storm and high water flood broke the cables on log booms. The logs were swept out to sea and lost. No insurance carried.



Charlie Gordon Sash and Door Factory. Fourth person from left is Robert Clark, bookkeeper, 1910.

The logging people had no income. They couldn't pay their wages and grocer. There was a financial panic. All the wholesales and money lenders pressed for payment. Re-financing failed. The Austin store went bankrupt.

P. S. Austin, looking for a new place to re-establish himself, came to Strathcona, Alberta Territory, as an attendant, with a carload of horses owned by A. G. Taylor. Railroads then provided a free round trip rail fare for each carlot of livestock. He filed on a homestead west of Birch Lake in September, 1903.

In March, 1904, he brought his family to Strathcona where he bought a team of horses and a sleigh. Francis, Joe and I were then about nine, seven and three years old.

The first week of April we travelled to the homestead by sleigh. The winter trail crossed Beaver Lake. We stopped at McAllisters, near B. Lake at Old Vegreville and at Mrs. Woods' stopping place west of where Ranfurly was later located.

Mother obtained a dozen hens and a rooster from Mrs. McAllister at that time. We lived in a borrowed tent while a 12 x 14 foot rough lumber shack was built on our homestead. A milk cow was bought from a neighbor Robert Giboney. Toward fall prairie sods were plowed — cut into convenient lengths and laid around the outside walls of our shanty up to the eaves as insulation.

Our sister, Ruth, was born there January, 1905. I believe she was the first homesteader's child born in the district. Dad attended at the arrival, then brought neighbor Mrs. Giboney before daybreak.

That winter Dad hauled building logs from Birch Lake. He peeled the green poplar logs and built a log house about 20 x 36 feet with one log partition — sleeping quarters above — shingle roof — plastered walls, inside and outside with lime and sand. At that time it was one of the largest houses in the area.

During 1905, Dad made as much prairie hay as he could, much more than he needed for his few cattle and horses. He tried working with team, building

Canadian Northern Rail grade east of Ranfurly. He being inexperienced was bawled out and sworn at by the foreman — so he quit.

Later he sold and delivered hay to the railroad camp near Ranfurly. He got enough from hay sales for our family winter grubstake.

The laying of steel rails and the sight of the work train in the fall of 1905 was a great morale booster — a dream come true — bringing rail service one hundred miles closer.

Starting November 1, 1905, mother and dad with nine-month-old sister, travelled to Edmonton by horse-drawn wagon — the railroad was not yet open to the public. My brothers and I stayed on the homestead. The trip took nine days with only one day in Edmonton. At that time a round trip to Edmonton by ox team would take up to three weeks.

Ranfurly was built in 1906. About three stores, a hotel, livery stable and blacksmith shop. Up till this time our Post Office address was Dinwoodie, Alberta, near Sickman Hill. Now Ranfurly had a Post Office as did other towns along the C.N.

I attended Ranfurly's first day of school June 1, 1907, in a 12 x 14 foot rented building. A permanent school was built a year later where Myrtle Stewart (later to become Mrs. Colin Montgomery) was our teacher.

Three more milk cows, a sow and a third horse were obtained. Mother raised chickens but hawks and coyotes kept raiding her flock. Mother said that the very first farm produce was eggs, which she traded for soap.

We pretty well lived off the land, depending on wild berries and rhubarb for fruit. Dad and his shotgun provided ducks and prairie chicken in season. My brothers trapped rabbits for food and muskrats for fur. An odd skunk was rendered for skunk oil — a favorite pioneer remedy for assorted ills like bad colds, sore throat or congestion. Mother made soap from farm rendered fats and lye. Her garden provided potatoes and vegetables in a wide variety. Poultry provided feathers, meat and eggs. Her cows gave milk from which she also made butter and cottage cheese and along with homemade bread kept us busy and healthy. She traded her surplus produce to Labelle Bros. Store for off-farm supplies and sewing materials.

One of her joys was a new sewing machine — cost \$35.00 — which she used to make our clothing — blue denim pants and jackets — cotton shirts — underwear made from a large roll of hard wearing but itchy material. Most of us had homemade muskrat fur head gear — sister Ruth a muskrat fur coat. Home knit socks and mitts.

Dad raised some cattle and hogs. He butchered



Vermilion Cash Store — in Old Vegreville — run by the Robertson Bros. 1902. P. S. Austin of Ranfurly bought his first "Prairie Breaker" breaking plow from this store.

them to sell the meat, dressed beef was sold at 5¢ a pound for hind quarter and 4¢ for front quarter. Eggs brought 10 to 20 cents per dozen — butter 20 cents a pound.

Dad bought his first plow — a 12 inch prairie breaker from Robertson Bros. — also known as Vermilion Trading Co., at Old Vegreville June 5, 1905. He broke about 100 acres on his homestead with that plow — two horses at the beginning, three horses later.

In 1906 he bought a 6 ft. McCormick right hand cut binder in Innisfree. Price about \$165.00.

The very first grain grown was threshed with a hand flail, the chaff winnowed out with a breeze — the next year a horse-powered thresher — owned by Briggs or McNutt or both — also threshed some for our neighbor Fred Pomrenk.

Our 1908 crop was threshed by Rice and Dove from south-east of Birch Lake, with a Nichols and Sheppard steam outfit. Leander Davison of Lorendale with a new one cylinder I. H. Mogul threshed our 1909 crop. Chas. Bissell was his engineer. Pettman's Case steam thresher did our 1910 and 1911 threshing.

P. S. Austin bought a Rumely 28" wood separator and 15-30 "Oil Pull" tractor October, 1912. Our family continued in the threshing business until we started combining.

We attended Ranfurly school — Francis took his high schooling in Vegreville 1911 to 1914. He taught Birch Hill School September to December, 1913. Brother Joe became a tractor operator at age 15.

Dad bought the W½ 5-51-12 from R. H. Giboney in 1910 at \$20.00 per acre. He and hired men started to brush and break the land. We moved there April, 1911.

As early as 1908 — possibly earlier — P. S. Austin became actively involved in farm union work.

He helped organize the United Farmers of Alberta in 1909 which led to the start of The Alberta Co-operative Elevator Co. which built Ranfurly's first elevator in 1913. This grain company joined the Grain Grower's Grain Co. in 1917 to form The United Grain Grower's. Dad was a director of U.F.A. and on the board of directors of these grain companies for about eleven years.

My second sister Naomi was born on the homestead July, 1910. Brother Ted arrived January, 1913. The last of our line.

My grandfather Joseph Mauerman passed away in 1912, his wife a year later. My mother inherited the farm at Oakville. After 1914 threshing mother and her six children moved there.

Dad, deeply involved in his U.G.G. directorship and with a farm and threshing machine to pay for, did not give up his Ranfurly residence. He visited his family often at Oakville.

Francis was mother's farm help until March, 1916 when he married Jennie Anderson. They then came to the Austin farm at Ranfurly.

Brother Joe, being mechanically inclined, spent most of his time with engines and cars. He worked as a mechanic in garages. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Motor Transport Division and served in Maryland and South Carolina. Mustered out as a Sergeant in late summer of 1919. Returned to Ranfurly to operate threshing machines and establish his Austin Garage business. He married Flossie Yettaw in 1921. Their children were: William C.; Lee J.; Elaine and Donald.

Joe was deeply interested in new electrical and mechanical developments of the day as engines — tractors — motor cars — machines — radio and aviation. He took pilots training, got his license, bought his own private plane.

In the early 1940's he was employed by Canadian Pacific Air as a pilot to instruct air observers in Canada's Airforce training program. His son Lee was in the Canadian Navy. Son William was taken prisoner of war while serving with the Canadian Army in Italy in 1944. Was released at the end of the war.

Joe turned his garage business over to sons William and Donald. He then moved to Victoria area for a time, then retired to Ranfurly. He passed away July, 1968 after a series of strokes.

His daughter Elaine became an R.N. Passed away suddenly in 1969 with a stroke.

Francis and Jennie kept the P. S. Austin farm home viable until they built and occupied their own farm home in 1921. Their family were: Philip M.; Daniel K.; and Jean. Phil and Dan continue to operate farms there. Jean married Dr. Nick Kuzyk of Vegreville.

Brother Francis was not of robust health. He was a great reader and student. He became interested in public affairs — local politics — assisted with promotion and sign-up of contracts to start the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1923. He supported the U.F.A. the U.G.G., Farmers' Movements and C.C.F. Was elected councillor of M.D. of Birch Lake. As his son Phil took over more of the farm work, Francis spent more and more time in community service work.

As a local school trustee, he was one of a committee or delegation to oppose Premier Aberhart's enlarged school division program. The opposition crumbled when Aberhart revealed his determination to proceed with forming larger units so Francis accepted the change and became a Divisional Trustee of the Vegreville School Division. Wally Kennedy was employed as secretary-treasurer. Francis was chairman of this board at the time of his surgery which resulted in his untimely passing in 1943.

Francis and I had been co-owners and operators of the Austin threshing machine from 1926-1943 inclusive.

I (John) went to Oakville school from November, 1914 to May, 1920. Did some farm work there — spent school holidays 1916-17-19 at Dad's Ranfurly farm, driving horses and helping harvest, often returning to school a few weeks late.

On June 1, 1920, a week after graduating from Oakville High School, I started my farming career on the homestead quarter where Dad had started some 16 years before, plowing summerfallow for myself with a Fordson steel wheel tractor.

Inflation, caused by the 1914-18 war years, plus the poor Canadian wheat crops of 1918, due to July frost and the drought in 1919, caused the price of wheat to be high. I paid \$2.40 per bushel at the threshing machine in the fall of 1920 for wheat to seed my 1921 crop.

Winter came in October, 1919 with much snow and very cold temperatures. Winter snow stayed till late May, 1920. This was known as the 'Hard Winter.' Livestock feed was shipped in from anywhere it could be found — even from Ontario. This was a disaster for many farmers as there were many horses and cattle to be fed. Grain was scarce and high priced. Hay, straw, greenfeed was high priced and much was of poor quality with considerable weed seeds in it. Quack grass, flixweed, Russian pigweed and sow thistle came with that feed. These were new weeds to this area. Many horses and cattle died from lack of nutrition before spring.

Brother Francis broke 70 acres on his E½ 31-50-12 in 1918 with a Rumely tractor and 24-inch steel breaker. A very hot and dry 1919 resulted in a yield of 13 bushels of wheat per acre on the breaking.

Dad's summerfallow yield was 12 bushels per acre. The 1920 growing season was ideal, producing an excellent and abundant crop.

During the summer of 1921 I helped Francis build his house and barn and dig a well. While summer-fallowing in 1920 and seeding in 1921 I batched in the log homestead house. After Francis and Jenny moved to their place Dad and I batched in the old Giboney house. Dad usually did the cooking when he was home but I had several years of part-time batching.

In March of 1923 P. S. Austin rented me his W½ 5 farm, he gave up his U.G.G. directorship and took up residence with his family at Oakville. My mother came each fall to keep house and cook for my harvesters and threshers in the years 1923-24-26. My sisters came for the same purpose in 1925.

My wartime (1918) built Fordson gave me unending trouble all the years I had it. I started raising work horses for farm power. Horse care and batching didn't leave me much idle time in the busy seasons. I usually had a hired man to drive five horses on a 14 inch plow gang. I did what was done in the house and the seeding and harrowing.

My first wheat crop in 1921 brought me 93¢ per bushel; oats 22¢. A very light yield in 1922 wheat No. 1 was 84¢; 1923 — first year with the Pool No. 3 wheat was 72¢ so these were lean years. However, by November, 1924 things were looking up well enough that I spent \$150.00 for a radio — one of my best investments.

During the years 1920 through 1925 brother Joe was owner and operator of the Rumely threshing machine. Joe was fully occupied with his garage business so he sold the machine to Francis and I. We were on our third day of 1926 threshing when the Rumely tractor broke up. There was no other power available to drive our separator so I bought a McCormick-Deering 15-30 kerosene burning tractor.

That new tractor opened the gate of opportunity for me. I could now plow four times as much per day as with a five-horse team. I bought Dad's half-section and N.E. 5 and broke them up. I was soon tractor discing, seeding and cutting the crop with power binder.

Up to the mid 1920's I didn't seem to have a dollar to spare and had no prospects of getting a life partner. In 1926 I bought a new Star car. Wrote a note to Lavina Rollison asking if I might call on her. More than a year later we were married in Lavoy by Rev. Norman McLeod.

Our house was old and cold — we planned on building a new house but the 1928 crop was frost damaged. The 1929 crop was poor as it was a dry year. A large 1930 crop but a price collapse — cost

more to harvest than sales returns. 1931 was a hail damaged crop so we kept putting the building off. In 1932 we built our house which we enjoyed for 34 years. We turned it over to Howard and Rita in November, 1966.

I replaced the 1926 tractor with a 22-36 McCormick-Deering in 1930 as we needed more power for threshing. In 1939 I changed to a rubber tired W30. A fine machine for its size and day! Then we went to I.H. Diesels in 1951-55-59.

For 1944 harvest I bought a Massey Harris No. 15 P.T.O. combine. That small machine was far from perfect but we learned that combines could be used here to harvest. My first year of combining we put 10,000 bushels of grain in my bins for a cash outlay of less than \$100.00 for gasoline, oil and repairs. One cent per bushel. We hired no labor. George and Howard were then 13 and 11 years of age. They helped me after school hours and on week-ends.

By 1951 our sons George and Howard were doing more of the tractor driving. We bought our first Diesel tractor and a second Massey No. 15 combine. In late 1952 we bought Percy Rodwell's half-section — 78 acres broken, balance heavily treed and bush. This took several years of hard work to clear, break and pick roots, rock, etc.

Late fall of 1956, with our grain bins full and very little market prospect, son Howard took employment with Gunnar Mines, Uranium City, Saskatchewan area. At first he said — work for the winter — which continued for three and a half years except for his holidays. He returned to farm in the spring of 1960.

George married Helen Hunka in 1957. During the following year they built their residence. George bought E½ 33 and a W D9 I.H. tractor about 1955.

Howard farmed the MacNaughton land from 1960 to 1966. George and Howard bought other land from time to time.

For harvesting 1960-61-62 we operated three P.T. Massey combines. Then in 1963 George and Howard bought one I.H. 503 self-propelled combine. In 1964 they bought a second 503 self-propelled combine. Self-propelled swathers — more grain augers — larger grain trucks and grain bins followed. A grain dryer was added in 1968 which has been used some — about eight out of ten years. Fall of 1977, a vertec dryer was also used.

Howard married Rita Fulkerth in 1966. They took over the farm house of John and Vina who bought a house in Vegreville.

John gradually reduced his farming enterprises during the following years but through 1977 continued with driving farm machines in season — especially at seeding and harvest time.

Our sons have gone into larger Diesel powered

tractors and combines. Steel grain bins are replacing wooden ones that required painting and much maintenance.

We have gone into continuous cropping of our fields — no summerfallow — using nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers. Weed and wild oat chemicals seem to be giving reasonably satisfactory results.

With this program our production per acre was greatly exceeding our Canadian Wheat Board sales quotas — which were designed for about one-half summerfallow on lower producing lands. To use this surplus grain it seemed advisable to feed the barley and low grades of wheat produced to livestock. George established a cattle feed lot with an upright and trench silos. Howard built a cement and steel hog barn with near automatic feed and water with liquid manure handling.

Beef prices rose in the early seventies — feed lots were prospering on low cost barley. Near mid seventies a poor crop or two forced barley prices up over the \$2.50 bushel price. Beef prices fell from 50¢ live weight to 35¢ or less. Beef producers lost heavily so they cut production severely.

The Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board became very dictatorial — created hostility with Packing Companies and many producers. Many hog producers went out of production. In spring of 1977 Howard emptied his hog barn and shut it down.

I am disturbed that Canada is importing much beef and pork products which could be produced here where the feed and management is going unused. I feel that our governments' cheap food and high wage policies are discouraging home food production.

Baird, Agnes

Miss Agnes Baird (1871-1962) was born at Seneca, Kansas, U.S.A. Youngest daughter of Scottish parents from Glasgow, Scotland. Both parents had died by the time she was 14 years of age.

A trained nurse — graduated 1895 from Philadelphia Women's Hospital nurses training school, Miss Baird started the R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville, also the hospital in Grande Prairie and ran the orphanage in Edmonton while she was in Alberta.

She was known as "Auntie" to all her relatives. Auntie was a very generous person. On one occasion, she discovered her niece was going to have to wear her "good" dress for her wedding, so Auntie had a beautiful handsewn, white lawn dress made for the bride, to the bride's delight. It cost Auntie the sum of five dollars, a great deal in those days!

Baker, Albert

by Albert Baker

I was born on the twenty-first of November, 1897. After spending eleven years in school, I worked on farms until 1915. I joined the Army in September 1915 and spent around four years in France, and also, a short time in the Police Force. I came to Canada on June 20, 1920. I lived with my brother and his family for a short time. I was very much surprised to find farming here was not up to my expectations, especially around Youngstown. I wondered why there were no trees here, but it did not take me long to find out; Youngstown has to be one of the driest parts of Alberta. Well, I couldn't see any point in farming for a living, so I decided to work out at various jobs, first mining in Drumheller, and Butte, Montana. I also worked in Vancouver for awhile, and then went back to the mines. In the early spring of 1925, I received a letter from my brother asking me if I'd like to take over a neighbor's farm, as he had just been through a lengthy operation. I hesitated for awhile, then finally agreed. I took over the farm complete with outfit, and the first year was my best ever, and I found out that my English background paid off. I was very fussy, and took care in preparing the land. Before seeding, everything was perfect: rain at the right time, and good weather throughout the entire season. Harvest was good, and after all this good fortune, I had a complete change in attitude. Of course farming from then on was my whole life. After a few years of ups and downs, I decided to move to Ranfurly to join my brother, and have never since regretted it. I moved in the fall of 1931. In 1934, I met my wife, Frances Sullivan, who was a native of Ranfurly. I am pleased to say now that after getting such a poor opinion of Canada initially in 1920, that I have grown to feel that this country has to be the best in the world.

Balaam, Albert E.

by Albert E. Balaam

At this time, I would like to say that nobody, but nobody, knows the hardships that the pioneers endured to bring us where we are today.

In order to save many miles which it took to go around Beaver Lake from Edmonton to Old Vegreville about the year 1900, many settlers met an icy grave together with their horses and sleighs before the ice was firm enough to hold them. They tried to cross Beaver Lake.

I can well remember my dad telling us on his return trip from Edmonton to Old Vegreville how one of his horses broke its hobble and he had to ride the other horse as far as Two Hills before he found the other horse.

Yes, my dad was Tom Balaam, one of those green Englishmen who came from London, England, to homestead in Old Vegreville to make his fortune. Later the homestead was sold to Tom Selph. Thanks to my good mother. She insisted that we move to Vegreville, at its present location, in order that we three children get an education.

I think I read in "Alberta Heritage" where all green Englishmen coming to Alberta to homestead were given a blueprint on "How to Harness a Horse." Better still, was the account of an enterprising Englishman who hobbled his oxen before going down a steep hill. How about that?

I can well recall my mother relating this anecdote. While Dad was after supplies in Edmonton, which took two weeks by wagon, one evening she went after the cows. Yes, she would have to get lost! After finding the cows, she naturally followed them. As it was pitch dark when they stopped, she stopped. She could do nothing but wait until daylight and then get her bearings. So when daylight finally came, here she was at her own gate all the time!

As I said before, Dad was a green Englishman and he was also a terrible farmer. After hanging around the grain elevators for months, he finally learned the grain business and nobody but nobody knew more about the grain business than Dad.

He was considered the best grader of grain in Western Canada and I have a letter from the United Grain Growers Association to prove it. Even a customer of his competitor went to him one day and said, "Tom, please do me a favor. I think my wheat should be graded Number 1 and your competitor gave me only a Number 2." So Dad rolled it, sniffed it, bit it, etc. etc. Finally Dad said, "Well, I would only give you Number 2. Actually it is on the fence, but you would be safe in getting Number 2." So our friend went away happy.

Nobody, but nobody, had better parents than we did. No, we were not wealthy but what we lacked in material possessions was made up in so many other ways such as love, kindness, and consideration. Many people don't know it but the natives of Old Vegreville boosted the price of land so high that the railroad missed Old Vegreville completely and located at its present site. I must say that Old Vegreville was much more picturesque.

At this time I would like to give the Ukrainians credit for putting Vegreville on the map internationally by creating that enormous Easter Egg which appeared in the National Geographic Magazine. Believe me, no one but the Ukrainians could make Easter Eggs like the Ukrainians. How do I know? While going to school in Vegreville, rather than

bringing the teacher an apple, the girls at Easter Time would bring a colorful Easter Egg.

Some time ago I was given a page from a calendar of the Easter Egg in Vegreville. I had it framed and gave it to my brother-in-law in Victoria who, before he retired, was superintendent of the R.C.M.P. in Vancouver. You see, the Easter Egg in Vegreville was dedicated to the R.C.M.P., so what could be more appropriate.

An amusing incident occurred on the homestead when the Reverend Argue came down from Edmonton to christen me. When my mother asked one of my sisters for water she said, "Won't milk do?"

My late sister, Ruth, who used to teach High School in Vegreville and Camrose, was at one time advance agent for the Chautauqua. So many people don't even know the word "Chautauqua." To me, the Chautauqua was certainly great for the outlying districts of both Canada and the United States. When my sisister Ruth passed on, several years ago, Ward, her husband, married his secretary. They both live at Oak Bay, Victoria. My sister Ruth and Ward have one son who is at present married and lives in Ottawa. Ward, Junior, is with the R.C.M.P. in Ottawa.

Victoria is where we spent a week before going to my other sister, Lillian, who is at Provost, Alberta.

Incidentally, I volunteer at the Thrift Shop at San Rafael, about five miles from here, one and one-half days a week.

Last week a chap who is a minister and who was born in Camrose, Alberta, came in to see me. While talking about Alberta he told me years ago he was driving a bundle wagon north of Edmonton while working on a steam threshing outfit. A spike pitcher had a fourteen-year-old boy helping him. This boy apparently wasn't as adept at handling a pitchfork as the spike pitcher. So after the boy pricked the spike pitcher twice with his fork, the spike pitcher was raging and said, "If you do that once more I am going to throw you right into the separator." This happened, so the spike pitcher picked up the boy bodily and threw him into the knives of the separator. Of course the boy was killed instantly and the separator plugged. The threshing crew was so enraged that they lynched the spike pitcher on the spot.

As I said, I do volunteer work in San Rafael for one and one-half days a week. So also does my wife. Actually, we have over twelve hundred volunteers. Some only volunteer one or even one-half days a month. I am in charge of the men's department. Some time ago I was made vice-president of our guild.

The only reason I accepted was that I was guaranteed that I would have nothing to do except put my

feet under the table for a lunch two or three times a year. So I was accepted and apparently did such a good job of doing nothing that they appointed me for another term.

Incidentally, all the money that we make goes to "Sunny Hills Orphanage." At "Sunny Hills" they have their own teachers, schools, doctors and Hospital. The Bargain Box where I volunteer donates over one hundred and thirty thousand dollars a year. Ours is only a small segment of the income that "Sunny Hills" has.

You see, we have many donations of clothes, toys and bric-a-brac. In my department we get many new garments from the best stores in San Francisco. Rather than pay the yearly inventory tax on these garments, they donate them to charity. Then they can deduct them from their income tax.

Yes, I found out a long time ago that the only happiness that any of us get to keep is the happiness that we give away.

Balaam, Thomas

by Lillian (Balaam) McElhinney

At the turn of the century Thomas Balaam with Mrs. Balaam and their two very small girls, left Lower Edmonton, England, to sail to Canada. They settled for a time at Clover Bar, Edmonton, but soon left to live on a homestead seventy-five miles east of Edmonton.

Mrs. Balaam, with the two little girls, drove the buggy while Mr. Balaam drove the wagon with supplies.

Mr. Balaam accepted pioneering but for Mrs. Balaam the loneliness was terrible, as she had been used to serving dozens of people a day in their store.

A small town was started five miles north of the Balaam homestead expecting the railroad to pass through there, but it was built five miles north. This did it for Mr. Balaam, so they decided to move where the New Vegreville was being built.

Mr. Balaam was definitely no farmer, but a businessman. As soon as he moved he bought grain on his own using the loading platform. He was very successful at this but decided to work for the farmers. They said he was one of the best judges of grain anywhere. He was secretary for the local farmers' organization for twenty-five years, and also worked for the fair organization as a judge of grain and grasses.

Albert Balaam was born on the homestead with a midwife to assist with the birth. Reverend A. B. Argue came to christen him one day and Mrs. Balaam found there was no water in the house at the time, so Ruth spoke up, "Wouldn't milk do?"

Berries were plentiful but as bears were present also, Mrs. Balaam with the two girls would run for home as fast as they could when hearing the bushes rustle.

One day as Ruth and Lillian were picking buttercups by the little creek, Mrs. Balaam saw a bear coming toward them and ran to the creek — she carried Lillian and took Ruth's hand. As a new room was being built on the house, Mrs. Balaam took the girls up the ladder to the second floor, then pulled the ladder up after her. The neighbor's son Mercel Thomas came by soon afterwards and assured her the bear had gone away. A neighbor, Mrs. Rogers, was known to have shot several bears. The Balaams lived in Vegreville for awhile before moving east of Vegreville where they remained until Mrs. Balaam passed away.

Ruth took her high school in Vegreville, then went on to University. She taught high school in Vegreville and Camrose. She married Constable Ward Jones and they had one son, Ward Jr. Ruth passed away several years ago.

Lillian took high school in Vegreville, then went to Normal in Camrose. She taught for awhile, then married Alfred McElhinney of Provost. To them were born three children, Wilmer, Bernice and Bill. The sons live at Provost, and the daughter in Calgary.

Albert received his high schooling in Vegreville, then helped survey the tar sands in Fort McMurray. He was also Post Master and storekeeper at Hutton. Later he moved to San Francisco where he still resides.

After Mrs. Balaam passed away, Mr. Balaam went to live on an acreage at Santa Rosa, near the Valley of the Moon. Here he resided for twelve years enjoying the best of everything.

Balcaen-Lachapelle Family (1910-1927)

by Marie (Balcaen) Thelander, May, 1979

Octave Prosper Balcaen left his native Brussels, Belgium in 1906, at the age of 27. He was an intellectual and a lover of nature, and did not like the tailoring trade which he had been required to learn as a youth. So he decided to buy a farm near his brother Oscar's in La Broquerie, Manitoba.

The next year he met and married 15-year-old Melina Lachapelle. Born and raised in Haverhill Mass., she had come with her parents to live on a homestead near La Broquerie.

Octave and Melina had much in common. They appreciated each other's musical talent, and enjoyed singing together, especially in their Catholic Church choir. He was a linguist, and she was fluent in French and English, having learned both from the cradle, as

well as through her schooling by French nuns in Boston.

She had easily adapted to the homestead and loved farm life. But her husband, accustomed to city life, had difficulty adjusting. So it wasn't long before he let his brother have his farm, to her great disappointment.

He worked awhile building roads with Richardson's, then on construction of C.N.R. lines. It is interesting to remember a little anecdote he related with a chuckle years later. One of his strong and husky fellow-workers was very resentful at the hard work and poor pay. He'd swing his pick in an exaggerated arc and bring it down with gusto to the rhythm of his sardonic repetition of "C.N.R. a dollar and a half day!", the day's work then being easily half as long again as it is today!

In December, 1908, their first son Desire was born. He was subsequently called Dave by English-speaking friends. On their way to make a new home in Trochu, Alberta, in 1910, they were informed by the CNR that the line from Vegreville to Trochu wasn't safe enough to risk taking a pregnant woman and small child. So Vegreville became their home.

There was no accommodation to be found, so they lived in a tent while their four-roomed house was being built. It was located in the vicinity of St. Martin's church and school, the convent, and St. Joseph's hospital.

Here was a truly bi-lingual community. Many of the inhabitants from tots to grandparents, went blithely about their daily living speaking French or English at will — often a mixture of both — unconscious of the fact that this was unusual. The church sermons were delivered in English as well as in French. Father Bazin spoke English with a French accent; Father Rowland spoke French with an English accent. Both were loved and respected by all.



Octave Balcaen in front of his tailor shop in Vegreville, 1911.

Some non-Catholics, non-French families sent their children to St. Martin's school because they appreciated the rich rewards that can be reaped by casting prejudice aside.

Octave opened a tailor shop in a small frame building next to Dubault's garage. When a prankster caused the garage to burn down sometime later, the shop also went up in flames. Nothing was saved.

Undaunted, he soon set up shop again, this time in the Dumas building just north of the station. Because of his expertise and long hours of work he was able to make a living.

November of 1910 gave them the happiness of the birth of a second son, Maurice. Marie, the eldest daughter and third child was born in September, 1912. Then came Aurore Florence in June 1914. Her father soon nicknamed her Bijou (meaning jewel) because she was so bright and precious. Cecile, born in October, 1915 was a beautiful and sensitive child.

These had been happy years for the little family. Octave and Melina had made interesting friends among people of various racial backgrounds. They often sang together at home, and occasionally at community gatherings in which they always took an active part. Life was uncomplicated.

But war news was becoming increasingly alarming. The atrocities in Belgium were preying on Octave's mind. He took a trip to St. Boniface and while there, enrolled as a private in the 5th C.M.R. So he came home in uniform, to his wife's utter dismay.

He was stationed at Sarcee Camp in Calgary, so the family moved to Edmonton where he could see them more often.

In January, 1917 he went overseas with his battalion, and the family moved back to their little home in Vegreville.

Three months later Melina gave birth to a twelve-pound son Prosper, who was soon called Buster. So she was busy raising six children as a mother — alone.

On the morning of March 17th, 1919, she was overjoyed when awakened by a loud knock on the door and her husband calling "Melina, open the door! It's me, Octave!"

The children greeted him shyly at first after his long absence. Two-year-old Buster eyed him quizzically and blurted "Mama, who dat man?"

Taken aback only momentarily, the parents joined in their children's spontaneous laughter. The ice was broken! Octave Balcaen was home from the war!

He did some tailoring at home until he found a suitable shop. It was near the post office, just behind the station and around the corner from main street. About that time Mr. Pruner, a good tailor and smart

businessman, also opened a shop. Octave could not seem to regain his pre-war clientele.

The war had taken its toll of his health. Frequent splitting headaches plagued him. A train grinding to a stop would bring him to his feet, taut and tortured until the sounds died away. "That's exactly what the shells sounded like, flying over our heads in the trenches", he explained when his family questioned his nervous reactions.

In January, 1920 their seventh child, Leo, was born.

Realizing that the farm would be a good place to raise their brood, they took advantage of the Soldiers' Settlement Board's generous offer of a well-stocked, well-equipped quarter-section of their choice. It could be repaid yearly, according to the profits realized.

They decided on Arthur Poulin's farm, about 3½ miles South of Vegreville. René Dubuc, who now owns the farm, and his brother Joe, of "Golden Ager" fame, were sons of Henry Dubuc, who farmed one mile south. The Dubucs and the Balcaens have always remained staunch friends.

So on a cold, early spring day in 1921, the Balcaen family piled happily into a new green box-wagon for the big trek to the farm. The team made slow progress as the wagon slithered and danced its way from one side of the "graded" road to the other, sometimes axle-deep in mud and mire until they finally reached their new home. It was a comfortable two-storey house.

The wonders of a prairie farm in the spring enchanted the children. But all the hard labour was an ever-present reality, even though Dave and Maurice adapted easily and were enthusiastic workers. Their new "flowing-well" was a great convenience.

The "Old Vegreville" School, more than two miles away, seemed an endless distance to go. The children frequently had to walk it. A year or two later, the Dubuc School was built to the southeast. It was about a mile nearer.

Miss Florentine Belisle taught grades one to nine in that one room for years, and kept her winning smile and good nature through it all! She organized bi-lingual concerts, and year-end sports and picnics where the parents enjoyed meeting.

Octave kept his tailor shop, walking to and from the farm, often sleeping in the back of the shop.

In October, 1921, Albert was born.

There were occasional houseparties either at the Balcaens or at one or another of the neighboring homes. Those were the days of really jumping "home" music. Henry Dubuc and son Joe had taken up violin by correspondence and played many a good tune. A drum was improvised by turning over a tin



Octave Balcaen leading a girls' choir in Vegreville, at a St. Jean Baptiste picnic, 1920.

dispan. it gave out beautifully to rhythmic drumming by wooden spoons. Everybody sang or clapped their hands without inhibitions, and especially, everyone danced up a storm until the wee hours of the morning. The food was all delicious, right from the home-roasted-pork sandwiches with piccalili on fresh-baked bread to the "tire" pull-candy!

There were accidents. Dave fell off a spirited horse and broke an arm. Cecile broke a leg when she slid off a hay-rack. Leo was kicked in the stomach by a colt and was very sick for a few days. But each recovered in due time and all was well.

Mr. and Mrs. Antoine Lachapelle, Melina's parents, bought the little house in Vegreville and retired there in 1923. They were followed the next year by their daughter Mrs. E. L. Wilkins and her young son Clarence. These were happy years for all concerned.

In August 1923 Melina gave birth to twin boys, Paul and Peter. The family knew their first great sorrow in November when 2½ month-old Peter died. Simon Sysak, a valued employee of the hospital, was a good and generous friend. His kindness meant a lot, especially at this time.

Their next daughter, born in September, 1924, was named Henriette after her godfather Henry Dubuc. Her name soon changed to Penny!

The last son Emile, later called Joe, was born in November, 1926.

The distaste Octave had acquired for farming during his first year in Canada was resurfacing strongly with his waning health. Losing a horse and a cow within a year, and other setbacks, were disheartening. In 1927 the family left the farm and moved to Saskatchewan. Saying goodbye to the wonderful people they knew, and leaving Vegreville, their home, was a traumatic experience for all. P. O. Box 175. and telephone number 612, remain in their memories even now.

They finally settled in Saskatoon where Octave worked as a tailor. Their last two children, Lillian and Isabel were born there in August, 1930, and November, 1932, respectively.

After a long illness, Octave Balcaen passed away in June, 1939. He is buried in the soldiers' plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in Saskatoon. He is lovingly remembered by his family as a man who unceasingly strove towards one goal — to be reunited with them all in heaven some day.

After losing her husband from the effects of the first world war, Melina saw six sons enroll in the 1939-45 war. Four went overseas. Was it her prayers which brought them all back unscathed?

Before the end of her life she had 140 progeny: children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

Melina Balcaen died in September, 1975, at the age of 83. Her twelve remaining children attended her funeral in Vegreville, where she is buried.

It was a fitting, silent eulogy to a great and courageous woman, that her six sons bore her coffin to the grave.

Barlott, Harry and Pearl

Harry Barlott was three years old when he arrived in Canada with his parents Mary and John.

Harry Barlott went to Highlow School when he was seven years old. This one-room school was built in about 1905 and then was torn down about 1920 and replaced by a new school on the same site. This school is still there and is used as a Community Centre.

After completing his grade eight, Harry started farming with his father and older brothers, Harris and Andrew. Some time later, his brothers went to work in British Columbia where the winters were not so severe.

All the field work was done by horses. Tractors were only used for breaking and threshing. The grain was hauled to Fitzallen Elevators by team during the winter months. There were no stores at Fitzallen; only two elevators located about 4½ miles straight west of the Barlott farms. These elevators were owned and operated by United Grain Growers and Alberta Pool. The grain was shoveled by hand onto a box holding about seventy bushels. There were no grain loaders or augers in those days and no big trucks!

In 1925 Harry Barlott married Pearl Zukiwski of Ispas, Alberta. They were married in the Shepenetz church about twenty miles north of the farm. This church was built from field stones and is still at its original site.

Their first home was a small shack built from

lumber where they lived for one year. The following year, a log house was built adjoining this lumber shack. The home now had two rooms on the main floor and two rooms upstairs. Harry's farm was situated across the road from the original homestead. They purchased another eighty acres or a half-quarter northeast of the home quarter. This land was almost solid bush that was all cleared by hand and then broken by the Hart-Parr tractor and brush breakers.

In 1930 this land was ploughed and that year Harry and two hired men picked and grubbed the roots all that winter. This was possible because there was no snow to speak of that year.

Visiting to Ispas, home of Mrs. Pearl Barlott, was done during the summer. These excursions were a three-day affair; taking a good five hours to travel to and from their home.

Harry and Pearl purchased their first car in 1937 (a four-door Chevrolet for \$1100.00). The roads then were not graveled and if rain came, they would not use the car. In winter they would raise the car up on blocks and send the license away for a rebate. Horses were used during winter (some winters were so severe that even traveling by horse team was difficult under trying conditions).

Harry took an active interest in the growing community. He was one of the school trustees for Highlow School for a period of about three years. Once they became more settled, Harry built a thirty by fifty foot barn with a large hayloft and hay loader. This barn was mainly built for horses with a partition for eight milk cows. The contract price (\$1850.00) for this barn included labour and materials. Room and board for three workers was also supplied by the Barlotts.

In 1950, a new two-story home was built; this home and the barn are still being used by Harry and Pearl who are retired from farming.

Another quarter of land was bought from the Jack Corry Estate just west of the original home quarter.

Pearl and Harry Barlott raised a family of three children: Michael, Lynn and James. Michael and James are still living and farming in the same area. Lynn is now married to Fritz Zentagraf and living on the outskirts of Edmonton on a newly-purchased acreage.

In her spare time, Pearl sewed, crocheted and painted Ukrainian Easter eggs. Harry and Pearl are members and supporters of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox church in Vegreville. Mrs. Pearl Barlott is a member of the church ladies and still helps as much as possible at their various functions.

Barlott, James and Jennie

James Barlott attended the Highlow School from

grades one to eight and completed high school in Vegreville. His work history consists of three years with Premier Steel Mills, Edmonton, and ten years with U.F.A. Co-op in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Red Deer. The following eight years, James worked for the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

James and his wife Jennie were married in 1975 and have a son Kenneth and a daughter Caroline. As of May 1, 1979, the family moved from Edmonton to farm one mile from the original Barlott homestead. This farm was purchased in 1964 from Mrs. Ruth Wagner.

Barlott, John and Mary

John and Mary Barlott immigrated from Ukraine in the fall of 1901, together with their three sons, Andrew, Harris and Henry. The journey from their native village of Vegeniv took about four weeks: two weeks by steamship; then by train from Halifax to the rail-head at Strathcona; and finally by oxen to the Mundare area where they stayed over the winter with some friends by the name of Laniuk.

From their friends' homestead, they walked to look over available homestead land. Eventually they found a quarter-section eight miles north-east of Vegreville on which location their son Peter, and his wife Sally, continue to live.

In the spring of 1902, John and Mary moved to their farm with a team of oxen and one cow which they bought from the Laniuks. The cow and oxen cost ten dollars each while the purchase of a walking plow for another ten dollars completed the extent of their farming resources. They immediately set to work clearing and seeding in order to prove up their homestead within the three-year mandatory period. During the first fall (1902) they cut the wheat with a scythe and threshed it with a flail. At first they ground this wheat, their first crop, at their neighbor's stone grist mill, but eventually they made their own stone mill from two flat field stones, which "dzorna" lasted for many years. The bottom stone was stationary while the one on top had a hole in the middle into which the grain was poured while it was turned by hand. The ground grain, in the form of a coarse flour, came out of the sides. It was then baked into bread in an indoor clay oven known as a "pietch".

The farm had a plentiful supply of wild hay for the cow and oxen to graze on, and they lived off the land to a considerable extent during their early years in Canada. Prairie chickens were plentiful, and their homestead quarter-section was covered with heavy bush and trees so that there were lots of logs for buildings and great quantities for firewood. Since the

Brush Hill area was fairly well settled by the time they arrived, they were able to buy some chickens and livestock, and get some help with building a mud-plastered home.

During the first decades, John, and his son Andrew, went to work on the railway in the winter to make some money to provide for farm improvements. Their pay at this time was thirty cents per hour.

The nearest post office was at Dinwoodies' near Sick Man Lake. Church services were held at neighbors' homes in the New Kiew area about six miles north of the homestead; and supplies were replenished by walking to the small town of Old Vegreville.

As more land was cleared laboriously, by 1910 it was ploughed by Dobko's steam engine and plow. Another, larger house was built a little north of the temporary sod-covered home, together with a log barn which is still standing today.

In 1911, another quarter of land directly across the road north of the homestead was purchased. This quarter became the home farm of Harry Barlott where he and his wife, Pearl, live in a modern home to this day.

They bought their first tractor in 1920 for about \$800.00, a Titan gasoline engine with three steel wheels on it. This tractor was hard to start and also harder, at times, to keep running. In 1923 they bought their first threshing machine, an Altman Taylor with a wooden body which lasted until 1930 when they bought their first International Harvester, all on steel. Another tractor purchased in 1927 provided the means of rapidly clearing the two quarter-sections within a few years.

John and Mary Barlott were pioneer settlers of the Vegreville district, where the three younger children were born. Of their children, Andrew and Harris are deceased.

Harry and his wife Pearl live on the original quarter while their sons, Mike and James shoulder most of the farm duties. Their daughter, Lynn Zentgraf, lives in Sherwood Park.

Their daughter Helen married in 1919, has lived in Edmonton since that year and has two sons, Bill and Alex.

Peter and his wife Sally live on the home place while their four sons, George, Paul, Tony and Allan have entered various professions.

Kate, the youngest of the family, lived on the farm while her parents were still alive and since then has resided in Edmonton and Raymond, Alberta.

Both parents lived a good but hard life in the Vegreville district, with John passing away in 1935 and Mary in 1953.

Barlott, Michael and Esther

Michael Barlott is the eldest son of Harry Barlott. After completing grade eight at Highlow School, he went on to Vegreville High School where he completed his grade twelve. While attending school in Vegreville, he stayed at private homes, one of which was the Semotiuk residence. In 1942, Michael's father Harry purchased a quarter of land from John Moore where Michael and his wife presently live. In 1947, Michael went to Edmonton to Chicago Vocational School where he took Automotive Diesel training. During this time, he had a part-time job driving a taxi for a firm called Phil's Taxi located then on 118 Avenue.

In 1948, Michael was employed as a mechanic by Mike Arychuk, the Allis-Chalmers Dealer and later Studebaker car and truck dealer.

Some time later, Michael started an apprenticeship program and went to Calgary Technical school where he was able to get an Automotive Mechanics license.

In 1950 Michael Barlott and Esther Slusarenko were married in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox church in Vegreville. They stayed with Michael's parents until they fixed up the house on the John Moore place that was purchased in 1942. A telephone was installed but this luxury was shared with twelve other families who were all connected to the same line. Mike and Esther did not have electricity until about 1954 when the R.E.A. of Lavoy was formed and power was installed. The year 1958 was a big year for this young couple since Michael built a hogger and installed running water.

Michael has always been involved in the community and in 1960 was elected Councilor of the Minburn County Division #27. He served for fourteen years and was involved in a number of organizations (School Committee, Seed Cleaning Plant, Senior Citizens Home, Health Unit). Michael and Esther are also members of the Highlow Community Centre, Michael being chairman for several years.

In 1965, the old home was moved over in the yard and a new house was built. After they moved into the new home, the old house was sold and moved away. Michael and Esther will always remember this little house since it will always bring back fond memories of their early married life and family.

Michael and Esther are members of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church, Michael being on the Building Committee when the new church was built. Presently, Michael and Esther are actively involved with the Vegreville Cultural Association (Michael served as President for two years).

Considering their involvement in the community, they still managed to raise a family of three.

Richard, their eldest son, completed his grade twelve in Vegreville, then took one year of Business Administration at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton. He is now employed as a gas plant operator at the Plain Lake gas plant.

Diana, their eldest daughter, has completed her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta and is now teaching in Lavoy, Alberta.

Sharon, their youngest daughter, is in her second year at the University of Alberta studying Early Childhood Education and some day hopes to become a teacher.

Barlott, Peter and Sally

Peter was the youngest son in the family and received his grade eight education in the old Highlow School.

Peter started farming with his father on the homestead quarter. When his father passed away in 1935, Peter took over the farm. Brother Harris owned the quarter to the west of the homestead and rented it to Peter. When Harris eventually moved to British Columbia, he sold his quarter-section to Peter.

Peter married Sally Palahniuk in 1942. They were married in the Brinsley Church in the Ispas district where Sally was born and raised. Peter and Sally will always remember their wedding day because of extremely heavy rain on that day.

Peter's mother lived with them until she passed away in 1953.

During Peter's early days of farming, all the field work was done with horses (five horses on a two-furrow plow called a gang plow). Peter and his brother Harry recollect ploughing 160 acres of summer fallow with two sets of horses and two gang plows. All of this field work took about one month.

Much of the land had to be broken. Heavy bush was cut by hand and then ploughed with the tractor that they owned together with brother Harry.

Threshing was done with this same tractor and a threshing machine. Grain was hauled by team to the Fitzallen elevators during the winter. At the elevator the grain was elevated with a gas engine.

The old log house was destroyed by fire in 1962 and that same year, Peter and Sally built a new home just a little east of the old house.

Sally then began to plant trees and many different fruit-bearing trees. In the spring the whole orchard surrounding the home is beautiful when everything is in bloom and is really worth seeing.

Peter and Sally raised a family of four boys: George, Paul, Tony and Alan.

George is now living in Kelowna with his wife Linda and has a family of two girls. George is an

assistant-manager at the Royal Bank of Canada in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Paul is living in Sherwood Park with his wife Debbie and has one son. Paul is head of Systems Engineering Branch, Department of Agriculture in Edmonton, Alberta.

Tony and his wife Valerie are living in Edmonton. Tony works with Coopers and Laybrand as a Chartered Accountant.

Alan is presently in his fourth year at the University of Alberta taking Mineral Engineering.

Peter and Sally are now retired and still living on the farm. This farm was the original homestead of John and Mary Barlott. They are members and supporters of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Vegreville.

Barrie, Napoleon

by Rita (Barrie) Dowhaniuk

Napoleon Barrie was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1859. Margaret Mercier was born in St. John's, Quebec, in 1868. Her family moved to Nebraska where she met Mr. Barrie and they married in 1885. In 1906 they came to Alberta, first residing at Halkirk, Alberta; then in 1919 they moved to the Old Vegreville District, close to the school and farmed several years. The farm is now owned by the Orest Kubinsky family.

Mrs Barrie died December 1, 1941, at the age of 73 years, and Mr. Barrie died September 22, 1945, at the age of 86 years. They had a family of six sons and four daughters:

David died on the 12th of January, 1920, of sleeping sickness about one year after the flu epidemic.

Alfred, the oldest of the family, married and stayed in Nebraska and is now deceased.



Napoleon Barrie Family: Back row (l. to r.) — Wilbur, Alfred, Medie. Middle row (l. to r.) — Ruby (Bienvenu); Mrs. Barrie holding baby Art, Mr. Barrie, and Orio (Forcade). Front row (l. to r.) — Henry, Louise (Cole); David, and Lena (Stanton). Taken at Halkirk about 1912.

Henry, of Camrose, is deceased.

Mrs. Aristide Bienveue (Ruby Barrie), deceased.

Mrs. John Forcade (Oria Barrie), deceased.

Mrs. Halley Stanton (Lena Barrie), deceased.

Mrs. Lemuel S. Cole (Louise Barrie), deceased.

Medie Barrie is presently in New Westminster, B.C.

Wilbur Barrie is presently in Edmonton, Alberta.

Art Barrie is presently in Youbon, B.C.

Barrie, Wilbur and Anna

by Rita (Barrie) Dowhaniuk

Wilbur Barrie was born July 2, 1894, in Campbell, Nebraska, U.S.A. and came to Alberta with his parents in 1906. He remembers roasting barley to make coffee in those early hard years.

On January 12, 1925, he married Anna Landry, born 1903, one of the first nurses to graduate in the old hospital in March 1923.

Wilbur and Anna farmed for several years 3½ miles south of Vegreville on the Bruce Road on the place that is now owned by the Rene Dubuc family. Two daughters were born to them: Rita (Barrie) Dowhaniuk, born November 7, 1926, and Blanche (Barrie) McGrath born July 1, 1936. Rita went to Dubuc School for eight years; the school was conveniently a half-mile south of their home. Blanche also went there until the Barries moved to Edmonton in 1945, where they now reside. Blanche married Ralph McGrath in 1954, and they have four sons.

The Barries celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1975.



Wilbur and Anna Barrie (centre) with daughters Rita, left, and Blanche, right, about 1967.

Bartman, Sam and Anna

by Sophie (Bartman) Triska

Sam Bartman was the son of Joseph and Alexandra who immigrated to Canada from Ukraine in 1902 when Sam was 10 years old. He had two brothers and five sisters.

Anna came from the Rurka Family, a daughter of John and Pearl. She had four brothers and one sister. They also came from Ukraine in 1902, and both

families settled on homesteads in the Borschiw District which is about 12 miles south of Mundare.

Both Sam and Anna were fortunate to obtain some education in Europe in Ukrainian language as there were no schools available here at the time.

Sam and Anna were married in February, 1910, and lived with Sam's parents for a year, then obtained a homestead of their own in the Derwent District where the first two children, Sophie and Walter, were born. At that time, they travelled and worked with oxen. They lived there for three years then sold the farm and bought another farm south of Vegreville at Ideal District. They had eleven children: three sons, Walter, Michael and Eugene; and eight daughters, Sophie, Mary, Mechelena (Millie), Jenny, Nancy, Rose, Emily and Olga. All the children took their primary education at the Ideal School, about ten miles south of Vegreville.

Sophie took nursing education at the Vegreville General Hospital, where she practised for a year after she graduated; she also worked in Tisdale, Saskatchewan for six months, then married Dan Triska, a farmer from the Park Grove District. Dan and Sophie had three children: Gerald, Joan and Carolyn. Sophie went back to her nursing career when her children were bigger.

Walter stayed on the farm with his parents; Mary went out working and later went to Calgary and worked at the Elks' Club where she met and married Bob Herring; they have one daughter. Mary's husband died in 1969 and she still resides in Calgary.

Millie stayed at home for three years after she quit school to help her parents. In 1943 she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps, where she met and married William Moroz of Arborg, Manitoba. They have one daughter, Jane.

Michael obtained his education degree. He taught in the Camrose District until he was drafted into the Army. He then joined the R.C.A.F. and was a navigator for three years. After he completed his 29 missions over enemy territory, he returned to Canada in 1946 and then was a high school teacher at Ross Shepherd School in Edmonton. In 1962 he married Darlene Buckloz of Winterburn, settled in Edmonton and raised a family of four. In 1972 he was stricken with cancer and passed away May, 1973.

Jenny and Nancy took business courses. Later Jenny went to Vancouver where she married Perris Harris; they have two sons and now live in Toronto. Nancy married Ian Stuart of Calgary where they now reside with their three sons.

Rose worked at the 5-\$1. Store in Vegreville for three years, then moved to Vancouver where she obtained an office job and in 1953 married Vern Ross. They have two sons, Doug and Michael.



Annie Bartman with her daughters. Back row (l. to r.) — Minnie, Mary, Sophie, Jenny. Middle row (l. to r.) — Rose, Mother, Nancy. Front row (l. to r.) — Emily and Ollie. About 1930.

Emily chose a nursing career, trained in the Vegreville General Hospital, and obtained a position at the Royal Alex Hospital where she still works in the operating room.

Olga worked in a business office in Edmonton and married Melvin Boehmer. They have one son.

The youngest son, Eugene, was unfortunately killed in a head-on car collision at the age of 24 years.

In 1943, Sam and Anna Bartman bought a house in Vegreville and moved from the farm. Sam worked in any army camp for three years in Grand Centre until the war finished. Then he helped Walter on the farm until he obtained his old age pension at the age of 70. He died in 1968 at the age of 79 years.

Mrs. Bartman became crippled with severe arthritis in early 1960's, spent about 15 years in a wheelchair, and resided a few years in the Senior Citizens' Lodge, and later in the Vegreville Nursing Home. She died in 1976 at the age of 83 years.

The Bartmans had many hardships during their farming. The crops have been hailed out many times. They did their best to raise their large family. There were also droughts that caused the crop to be poor.

The only entertainment the farm people had during the winter was the house parties and card games. The first gramophone in the area was bought by a neighbor, Frank Dennis. The people around used to go to his place in the evening to listen to it. He had the cylindrical records. He also purchased the first radio in that district. He was never short of visitors!

Other neighbors were Annie's brothers — Harry Rurka, Pete Rurka; and Percy Sandercock. Sam had a freak accident when he was crossing the tracks at Holden; the train killed the horses, but he was saved.

Every winter he used to go to Ryley to buy coal to keep the house warm. Sometimes the winters were severely cold and he used to get very cold many times so he walked to keep himself from freezing.

A neighbor purchased a car in the early twenties. When he came home with it he forgot how to stop it so he drove it into a slough. There it stopped!

Baxandall, Joseph **by Marion and Ed Baxandall**

Joseph Baxandall Sr. was born in Oakworth, Yorkshire, England, in 1866. In 1882 he moved to Arlington, Virginia, where he worked for an Uncle for a few years. In 1892 he travelled to Strathcona, N.W.T. (Edmonton) and joined his brothers, Park and Willie, who had arrived from England. In Strathcona they farmed for several years. In 1895 Joseph Sr. married Florence Northcote.

In 1898 brothers Willie and Park moved to the present Vegreville area and purchased several parcels of land. This land included the area of the present St. Martin's Catholic Church and the old convent. In 1903 Joseph and family moved to Salteau district near Mannville and ran the first Post Office there on his farm.

In 1910 Joseph Baxandall Sr. and family moved to the Vegreville area and purchased the S ½ of 25-51-15. While farming in this area, he raised Purebred Ayrshire Cattle, Yorkshire Hogs, and Clydesdale Horses, also poultry, with which he won



Threshing on Baxandall farm, about 1920.



Wedding Day of Joe and Ida Baxandall, June 5, 1927. On far right are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baxandall, Sr.

many ribbons in the Vegreville Agricultural Society Fair for many years.

In 1915 Joseph Baxandall travelled to Vancouver B.C. and purchased two box-car loads of fir lumber. This lumber consisted of many lengths of 32 ft. 8x8's which were used in the construction of a barn 32x80 and a house 32x32 built in 1915-17.

These two buildings are still in use on the Ed Baxandall farm south of Vegreville.

Joseph and Florence Baxandall raised nine sons and one daughter: Smith, Joseph, Park and Susan were born in Strathcona, while John and George were born in Mannville. Willie, Fred and Verdun were born in Vegreville, and Percy was born in Westlock. At present those living are Percy residing in Campbell River B.C., Verdun living in Westlock, Fred living in Barrhead, and John living in Black Creek, B.C.

In 1919 the family moved to a farm in the Westlock area, where Joseph Sr. and Florence resided until their passing in the 1940's.

Joseph Jr. was born in 1899 when his parents lived in Strathcona N.W.T. While living in the Westlock area, he met and married Ida Marie Vadheim in 1927. Joe and Ida's sons Edward, Roy and Arthur were born while the family lived west of Westlock, a half mile west of Hazel Bluff Church.

In 1942 the Joseph Baxandall Jr. family moved from Westlock to Vegreville to the farm originally owned by his father Joseph Sr. Later the family purchased more land on the correction line ten miles south of Vegreville. Joe (as he was known to his friends) was a very apt mechanic. His repair shop on the farm was very well equipped and he always repaired all his equipment and helped many of his neighbours. Joe Jr. enjoyed hunting and fishing and missed very few years going blueberry-picking. Upon retiring Joe and Ida lived on a small acreage south of Vegreville, then moved to Campbell River for two years.

They then moved to Abbotsford B.C. for a few



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baxandall Sr. and son Verdun, 2 years old, 1918.

years. Later they moved back to the Town of Vegreville where Joe passed away in 1975. Ida (Grandma Baxandall) still lives in Vegreville. At 70 years of age she still drives her car to visit relatives in Westlock and Athabasca. Grandma is quite able and finds time to be chauffeur for her friends and family, helps on the farm in busy seasons, sews many of her clothes and in spite of arthritis, still knits.

Eldest son of Joseph Jr. - Edward and wife Marion reside on and farm the land owned by his Grandfather Joseph Sr. (This land had been in the Baxandall name since 1898). They are third-generation farmers.

Ed and Marion have four sons:

Randall: a pharmacist working and living in Calgary.

Harold: takes telecommunications at N.A.I.T. and is living in Edmonton.

Alan: is in grade IX and attending A.L. Horton Jr. High School. He is involved in curling.



Park Baxandall Sr. of Vegreville, crossing ferry on North Saskatchewan River, north of Vegreville, 1908.

Darin: is in grade VII and also attends the above school. He is involved with bowling on the school team.

Alan and Darin are members of the Vegreville 4-H Beef Club. They are becoming quite active in operating the farm equipment and spend many hours in the field during busy seasons.

Ed and Marion take part in several community clubs, agricultural organizations and St. Mary's Anglican Church.

Roy Baxandall, second son of Joseph Jr., inherited his father's talent in mechanics. He worked for several years as shop foreman and heavy-duty mechanic for the County of Minburn. At present Roy is still farming and is an auto salesman for Dallas Ford in Vegreville. Roy and his wife Christine have three children.

Pamela: married to Ed Tillapaugh; they have a daughter Kristy and reside in Vegreville.

Ken: is living at home and works for the Gulf Servico as assistant manager.

Robert: lives at home and attends Vegreville Composite High School. He is another budding mechanic.

Arthur, youngest son of Joseph Jr., also resides in Vegreville. He is a sheet metal mechanic employed at Tower Plumbing. Art is active in Minor hockey, is a member of the Vegreville Volunteer Fire Department, and Vegreville Elks Club. He also attends St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church with his family.

Art and his wife Deanna (R.N.) have five children.



Joseph Baxandall Sr. steam threshing outfit, 1910, on present farm of Ed and Marion Baxandall. It took fifteen men to run the outfit. In the picture are: Oscar Johnson, Frank Dennis, Willie and Park Baxandall and crew.

David: attends Vegreville Composite High School, he is in grade XII and works part-time at the Gulf Servico Center.

Leanne: attends the same school in grade XI and is a recent exchange student to London, Ontario.

Daryl: also goes to High School in grade X. He is an avid hockey player.

Lisa: is in grade VI attending St. Mary's School. She is a very busy and organized person with many interests.

Dean: in grade IV at St. Mary's School is a recent winner of a National Poster Contest with the theme "All About Us" for the Year of the Child. His poster is displayed in the "Young Canadian Creative Center" in Ottawa.

The history of the Baxandall family was compiled with the assistance of Verdun Baxandall, Westlock.

Baydala, Nick and Mary **by Katherine (Baydala) Rozak**

Nick Baydala arrived in Canada May 28, 1905, on the steamship Michigan at the port of Quebec as a twenty-three-year-old laborer, destination Winnipeg. Because Winnipeg was overcrowded with immigrants, he and many others were transferred to Selkirk where his first paid job was picking seneca roots. The druggists in that day bought these for medicinal purposes.

When he was swindled in a land deal, he decided he had enough of Manitoba and came to Vegreville because he heard there were many Ukrainians there.

In 1915 he married Mary Meleshko. In 1918 she died in the flu epidemic, when their daughter, Katherine was two years of age. In 1921, Nick married Anna Goshko, then Marshall, Olga and Nestor came along.

All these years Father was an odd-job man, clerking, barbering, lumberman, drayman, and cook's helper. None of these were what he wanted to do the rest of his life. He decided to buy a farm eleven miles south of Vegreville, where Nestor is still farming.

He was a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and was the cantor for many years. He loved to read and had many books on the history and culture of the Ukraine. He subscribed to many newspapers, and had many of his letters printed in them. He kept abreast of current events especially those taking place in the Ukraine. His one dream was to visit his home-land, but he never did. He was a staunch Ukrainian patriot and taught us to read and write Ukrainian. But, he also taught us tolerance and respect for other ethnic groups, and their beliefs and traditions.

An excerpt from his diary reads:



Mary (Meleshko) Baydala with daughter Katherine, 1916.



Mary Meleshko, the bride (centre), on the day of her marriage to Nick Baydala, 1915; the bridesmaid to her right was later Mrs. Prystupa.



Mary Meleshko, centre, in 1914, when she was a maid at Goulds (parents of Mrs. A. L. Horton) in Vegreville, 1914.

"We have not accomplished much, but I am satisfied. Blind fortune has not favored me. What I tried to do, such as selling land, houses or cattle, I always lost more than I gained. However, there is no other country under the sun where an average person could throw away as much money as we do in Canada, and have so much freedom."

In 1941 Marshall Baydala won seventh prize for a bushel of oats at the Chicago World Fair. He was a member of the Junior Grain Club of the Inland District, sponsored by the United Grain Growers Ltd.

The oat kernels were hand-picked during the winter months. He used a coal-oil lamp as a light source. His mother and sister helped. The grain was then polished by putting small amounts in a silk stocking and shaking it. He was notified by letter of his win but there was no prize or ribbon.

Beaudette, Arthur as told by Art and Ida Beaudette

Arthur Beaudette, one of a family of eleven children, was born on Christmas Day, 1900, in Quebec

and at two years of age was brought west with his parents, first to Saskatchewan, then to Beauvallon to a farm in 1912. The highlight of his youth was an expedition to Vegreville in 1917 when, at age 17, he drove by team and buggy from Beauvallon, spent the night in this town, traded his outfit to Armand and Wilfred Plouffe in exchange for their Model T Ford, cranked it up and headed for the hills, arriving safely at the Beaudette farm in time for supper. Art admits the roads were dry then or he never would have made those steep grades.

In 1926 Art married Eva Bourget; in 1941 they moved to Vegreville with their four oldest children. They settled on land south of Town — Section 19-51-14, and engaged in mixed farming, even raising goats. Once the old ram escaped and Art found it at Schoettlers, where Mrs. Schoettler was glad to smell the last of it: "Boy, did it stink!" In February, 1957, baby Bernard was born; less than a year later, his mother, Eva, died of cancer. In 1958 Art married a family friend, Ida Barrette, who helped to raise the younger Beaudette boys. Always very active and hard-working, Art suffered a serious stroke in 1961 and had to sell the farm in 1963 because he could not handle the heavy machinery.

Ida Beaudette worked for some time at St. Joseph's Hospital, Vegreville. With a trained soprano voice, she used to sing at public affairs, but now joins joyfully in the general singing at St. Martin's church. Adept at crochet work, she has now put it aside in order to learn to drive and to try to beat Art at pool at which he is an expert. They live in a comfortable home in Frenchtown and still keep a good garden and baby-sit for some of their 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Art Beaudette's descendants: Lawrence married



Arthur and Ida Beaudette, 1972.

Ann Golonowski in 1946; worked at Cash foods, then farmed until 1961, and now works for Frank Golonowski. Ann has been active in church work, cared for her mother and for many neighborhood babies. Their children are: Richard, now a missionary in Labrador; Terry, an apprentice mechanic; Jerry in oil pipeline business; Shirley Anne with AGT in town.

Annette Beaudette married Philip Bienvenue in 1947; they farm on the old Aristide Bienvenue place just east of Old Veg corner, and also do carpentry and raised a family of fine citizens: Denis, before his untimely death at age 22, was deeply involved in Scouting here and at Delia, Alta; at seventeen he was the youngest Scoutmaster in Western Canada. Denise married Sylvester Komick; they both work in town and have two children. Kenny works as carpenter and farmer at home. Karen married Graydon Clements; they have one girl and live at Leduc. Lois is now in Edmonton and is an ardent hockeyplayer and sport fan. Barry married Peggy Czar, now at Viking. Audrey lives at Red Deer with husband Paul Pitman and their baby daughter.

Ted Beaudette was married in 1958 to Elona Petryga; they have both been active in various businesses and activities in town and are now in charge of the Vegreville Campsite and Tourist centre; children: Teresa Chudryk and Roxanne.

Daniel Beaudette is active in local affairs; owner-editor of **Vegreville News Advertiser**; Town Councillor; married to Albina Hook; two sons at home.

Bernie Beaudette is still footloose and calls Vegreville home.

Belisle, Emile J.

by Frank Belisle

Emile J. Belisle came to Vegreville from Coaticook, Quebec, in 1903. He was a blacksmith by trade so he worked at this till 1918 when he bought a farm four miles south of Vegreville where he farmed till 1945, when he sold the farm. In 1904 he married Melinda Tetreau and they had three children. Melinda (Tetreau) Belisle died in February, 1920.

The oldest child, **Florentine**, was born in 1905. After completing her schooling, she taught school for a few years in Alberta, then she entered the "Filles de la Providence" to become a nun. Then she moved to Saskatchewan and taught school for 42 years. She died on May 3rd, 1978, in Saskatoon City Hospital.

Frank was born in 1907. He married Mathilda Langois in January, 1943. He remained on the farm in Vegreville until 1945 when he moved to Edmonton where he is at the present. They had three sons, now all married: Victor of Ft. Saskatchewan, and Raymond and Bernard both of Edmonton.



Emile and Melinda Belisle and children Florentine and Francis. Mr. Belisle was one of the first blacksmiths in Vegreville about the time of Mr. Trump, another blacksmith, about 1913. Mrs. Belisle was a sister of J. B. Tetreau.

Therese married Armand Theroux in 1937. They had five children, and now live in Lafond, Alberta.

Bellegay, Stanley

In 1913 Stanley Bellegay arrived in Edmonton, Alberta as a young man, leaving behind in the Old Country, his Father Wasyl, Mother Anna, three brothers and two sisters.

Stanley was born in the Village of Pidmychaylivtsi, in the region of Rohatyn, Ukraine. At that time, the Ukraine was occupied by Austria, and immigrants coming from there were falsely registered as 'Austrian' on their Canadian Immigration Papers.

The first employment that Stanley was able to find was in a coal mine at Cardiff, Alberta. That first experience was very frightening; to go hundreds of feet underground, never being sure whether he would see daylight again. To create their own entertainment, the miners organized into ethnic groups, and enjoyed themselves by singing in choirs, and performing in stage plays.

In 1917, Stanley came to Vegreville. He entered a partnership with Harry Osiecki (a close friend and experienced carpenter) which established the first



The Bellegay Family. Back (l. to r.) — Sonia and Ron. Front (l. to r.) — Sylvia, Valerie with Dad Stanley Bellegay. Mrs. Bellegay took picture. About 1960.

Ukrainian-owned Window, Door and Furniture Factory. Stanley gained carpentry experience while working with his father in the Old Country. Together, Mr. Osiecki and Stanley built many Ukrainian churches and homes in New Kiew, and in the Shandro District, as well as in the Vegreville area.

Carpentry and cabinet-making was Stanley's life occupation. He was active in the ethnic cultural group, greatly enjoying singing and active in plays, which is a major aspect of the Ukrainian Heritage.

In 1931, Stanley married Mary Danyluk, daughter of David and Tetiana. Mary had attended public and high school in Vegreville, and also took part in Ukrainian dancing and cultural activities. They built a new home on the same lot as the furniture factory. In 1932, their first daughter, Anita Sonia, was born.

A few years later, Stanley and Mary built a house on an acreage located on the eastern outskirts of the town. It remained the family home until 1979.

They had three more children: Ronald Dennis, Sylvia Jean, and Valerie Nina. The children attended school in Vegreville, and were active in sports, music, church and club activities.

Mary Bellegay, a Registered Medical Record Librarian, was Head of the Medical Record Department at St. Joseph's General Hospital from 1957 until retirement in 1978. She is still employed at the Minburn Auxiliary Hospital.

Sonia married William P. McIntyre in 1952, and now lives in Houston, Texas. They have four children; Kathleen, B.G., Kyle, and Barbara Jean.

Ron completed High School, then spent the following five years travelling around the world on freighter cargo vessels. During this time, he obtained his Navigation and Mates Tickets. Upon his return, he attended N.A.I.T., graduating as a Chemical Technologist. In 1965, he married Takako Kado, who was employed at St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville, as an X-ray Technician. He later attended Shoreline Community College in Seattle, Washington, receiving a technician diploma in Oceanography. He worked in Nanaimo, B.C., and Scripps Oceanographic Institute in San Diego. He is now employed as the Head Technologist at the Institute of Ocean Sciences, Oceanographic Branch in Victoria, B.C. Ron and Takako live in Sidney, B.C., and have two children, Kyle and Kiomi.

Sylvia attended the Edmonton General Hospital and graduated in 1961 as a Medical Record Librarian. She worked in the Medical Record Departments of hospitals in Prince Rupert, Lloydminster, Leduc, and the U. of A. in Edmonton. In 1966, Sylvia married Maurice Johnson, a senior Technologist with Stelco. They live in Nisku, and have three daughters: Lisa, and twins Kendal and Lindsey.

Valerie, while attending High School, participated in many activities, taught music lessons, and worked as a lifeguard. She graduated from the Medical Technology Institute of Minneapolis, Minn. as a Medical Laboratory Technician. She worked in hospital labs. in Calgary, Peace River, Prince Rupert, Vancouver and Quesnel, B.C. In 1968, Valerie married Leslie White. They live in Quesnel, where Leslie is employed as head technologist at a pulp mill. They have two sons: Eric and Geoffrey.

Stanley developed a heart condition early in 1966, and passed away on March 18, 1967.

Stanley's workshop (which was a part of the original Window, Door and Furniture Factory), and his hand-made tools and artifacts, have been donated by the family, in his memory, to the Ukrainian Heritage Museum at Elk Island.

Bender, Henry (Hank) Leonard **by Kathleen (Bender) Beeching**

Henry Leonard Bender, born in Wisconsin, U.S.A., came to Edmonton as a young man, during the "boom days" and settled in what was then called Strathcona (the south side of the river) in perhaps about 1905. He took out Canadian Citizenship and operated a 7-chair barber shop. Later he also went into Real Estate.

About 1910, he married Mary Cecilia Benn, a Grade 8 teacher, who had also come out west from Ontario, as numerous teachers, milliners, etc. were doing at that time. She was born near London, On-

tario. Three of her brothers 'came west' also; Dick and Jack Benn settled in Southern Saskatchewan while Walter came to Strathcona with his sister.

About 1914, the Benders decided to try farming so they bought a place nine miles north of Viking, Alberta, and farmed there for seven years, and literally had seven years of "bad luck", losing everything to frost, hail, drought, and even a prairie fire that burned and destroyed everything except the house and farm buildings.

My father then rented the farm and moved the family to Vegreville in the late fall of 1922, where he owned and operated a Barber Shop and Beauty Parlor until his death in 1949, age 66.

"Hank's" service on Town Council lasted over 25 consecutive years; one of his special duties was arrangements for the Fair each year. He was an active member of the Elks Lodge for about the same length of time, and served on the Board of Trustees for St. Martin's Parish. Hank was an avid gardener; he raised many varieties of peonies and several kinds of different lilacs. He was also an excellent vegetable gardener. He had a standing bet with his long-time friend, A. L. Horton, as to which would appear with the first filled ear of corn each year (my dad was a late planter). He was also a keen duck hunter, and loved to share his quota.

He also considered it a privilege, all through the years without fail, to visit the hospital each Sunday and, without charge, attend to all the barbering needs of all male patients. He loved horses and during his early years in Edmonton, he owned two thoroughbred pacers and drove in the sulky races.

During the Fair, in later years in Vegreville, not able to own thorough-breds, he kept an interest and occasionally drove in a race.

For some years after leaving the farm in Viking, Mother taught Grade 8 in Mundare; however, the family was resident in Vegreville and she commuted. Hank and Mary Bender had two daughters.

The eldest, Kathleen, took teacher training and attended the University of Alberta after teaching for three years at the St. Martin's Separate School in Vegreville, but did not complete her B. Ed., due to the Depression. Then she continued teaching at Heisler, Alberta and also taught music (piano) as one of the many graduates (A.T.C.M.) under Mrs. Clements.

In 1937, Kathleen married David H. Beeching, a member of the R.C.M.P. After postings throughout central Alberta, he retired from R.C.M.P. headquarters at Red Deer, to Victoria, B.C., where they now reside. They had five children.

The second daughter, Madge, went in training as a nurse at the Vegreville Hospital, but left after two

years; she was too sympathetic and suffered nervous strain. She then took business training and later worked as an assistant in Dr. Hardin's office (dentist) in Vegreville. She married Roy J. O'Neil from Wallaceburg, Ontario, about 1945. He stayed "out West" and went into Real Estate. They lived chiefly in Red Deer and Calgary until her death in 1969. They had three children.

Benoit, Jean-Baptiste **as told by Noel Benoit**

Jean-Baptiste Benoit was born in Rougement, Quebec. He was a stone mason — building stone foundations for houses and barns, and also stone fences. He came to Vegreville around 1916 with his son, Leopold (Paul). Grandad Jean-Baptiste bought our home quarter and the quarter now owned by Roland Benoit (Paul's son). Credit Foncier owned the first mortgage and Hurlburt the second mortgage, and payable on a third crop share basis. John-Baptiste (a widower), and Leopold (still single) lived in a house near our present home. There was 60 acres broken on our home quarter at that time. Grandad was a real pioneer and loved moving on. When my father, Oscar Benoit, came to Vegreville in 1919, he took over the home quarter where we now live, and Leopold took the quarter where his son Roland lives. The payments were transferred to their names. Moving on once again, Jean-Baptiste bought a half-section, 4 miles east of us, where my brother Camille used to live, and a quarter west and south of us. Later this quarter was sold to Willis Cole. Here he built a log shack and barn out of poplar poles, and lived there with his son Joseph who also came from Quebec. In 1928, after he sold the quarter to Willis Cole for \$1200.00, it was time to move on again. He



Jean-Baptiste Benoit. About 1930.

and Joe moved to Donnelly. There he homesteaded another quarter and built more buildings. He loved taking off and walking across the countryside. He died at the age of 83, and that summer, he had cleared 10 acres of heavy bushland.

Benoit, Leopold **as told by Aurea Benoit**

In 1923 Leopold Benoit, aged nineteen, came here from St. Angel, Quebec; he bought a farm about six miles south-west of town and started a mixed farming operation. He was well-recognized for the smart figure he made, driving a spirited horse and fine buggy to town and church. He was a homeloving man and he needed someone to share his home, so he found a lively miss, Aurea Pouliot, who had come west with her father from New Breton, Conn. Un-used to farm life, Aurea was a bit shocked with the isolation of her new life, but the neighbors were very good to her, and she admits she was spoiled compared to some rural women then, for she never had to do heavy chores — her work was with the house and children, the garden and the chickens. She used the winter sleigh-rides to visit, play cards, and dance occasionally — not frequently enough to suit her fun-loving spirit. She joined the Catholic Women's League and the Farm W.I., and enjoyed these activities. Their two children, Rolland and Jeannette, went to school at Old Vegreville and then St. Martin's, staying at the convent (in jail, as the boys complained).

In 1955, Leopold passed away suddenly, and the seventeen-year old Rolland took over farming with his mother, who stayed there until Rolland found his

own help-mate. Aurea later became house-mother at the local Nurses' Residence and was very popular with the trainees because she enjoyed fun as much as they did. Upon retirement, she lived in Edmonton for a while and now has returned to Vegreville. Her comfortable apartment in Park View Manor is much-frequented by friends and relatives. Despite failing eyesight, Aurea still is as lively as ever. Rolland Benoit married a red-headed native of Ranfurly, Betty White, who graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing here in 1960; Betty and Rolland continued the mixed farming operation started by his father, and Betty also kept up her career and still does part-time nursing. Their children are still all around home and school: Keith, Leah, Charlene, and Richard. Jeanette (Benoit) Biamonte lives in Sardis, B.C.

Benoit, Noel and Frances **By Mrs. Noel Benoit**

I, Noel, was born in 1920 in the log house on the same site where we now live. I started school at the age of seven (Old Vegreville School) without knowing a word of English. It all sounded very strange at first, but after a week the words started to have meaning. My first teacher was Miss Scholen, and later she married Glen Shaw. Some of my classmates were Mina Mayer, Hector Robert and Alfred Robert. Later on I remember Lloyd Gould, Elliot Gould, Billy Watts, Grace Keiffer, Dorothy Scott, Buddy Scott, Joe and Roger Bienvenue. Some of my other teachers were Miss Van Deragin, Miss Marchand, Miss Bolin, Mrs. Collison, Twig Horton and Fred Reesor.



Leopold Benoit Family at home, 1947. Rolland, Leopold, Jeannette, Aurea.



Noel Benoit butchering a beef, Neil Kokott assisting, 1974.

For lunch we often took our sandwiches downstairs, put them on the hot stovepipe and we had toast.

Dad was janitor for quite a few years so us boys had to sweep out the school every night before going home. Miss Black was our district health nurse.

Things I remember:

— going to town with Dad at the age of 12 and having beef stew at the Boston Cafe, 35¢ each. Was it good!

— driving the team with a wagonload of grain to Inland. I was only eight at the time and to slow the horses down I had to brace my feet on the front of the wagon and pull for all I was worth, usually finding myself practically lying down in the wagon box. I couldn't see where I was going but luckily the horses could.

— going to bed at night and hearing the whirr-whirr-whirr of mother's spinning wheel. When we went to bed there was a big pile of fluffy wool in the corner and when we got up it was all in strands on spools. Later she would twist three strands together and knit socks, mitts and blankets. I can still remember her knitting with her eyes closed and head nodding.

— snaring gophers during school classes. We saw a gopher poking his head up just below the school window. I had some twine, so Hector Robert asked to leave the room, and he set the snare for me. Soon I had the gopher but what was I going to do with him? I pulled him part way up so he could not get away. Hector asked to leave the room. The teacher said "What? Again?" — away he went, finished off the gopher and pulled off his tail to sell later on. The teacher saw Hector doing all this so he was the one who got into trouble.

— I remember the big bedroom upstairs filled to capacity with bed after bed, with curtains for partitions.

— the year Dad made home-brew, and the barrel was sitting at the foot of our bed. We knew it was nearly ready by the sour smell and all that foam on top. My brother and I got some macaroni straws from the kitchen (they were shaped like a drinking straw at that time). After everyone was asleep, we took out our straws, which we had hidden in the bed, and helped ourselves, sticking our arms through the bars in the bed, whispering and giggling.

— I remember at 16, driving my first bundle team on the threshing crew. I had many blisters and all my muscles were sore; I was dead tired.

— January, 1942, I was drafted into the army, with six weeks basic training at Camrose. I went to Moose Jaw, Terrace, B.C., Prince George, B.C., Wainwright, Prince Rupert, B.C., Victoria, B.C.,



Noel Benoit's farm, 1950.

and Tofino, B.C. I went home again in 1945 and went back to farming.

In 1948, Frances Gellings and I were married by Fr. Burke. We lived with my parents in the log house for a year. Then we built a three-room house in the same yard, and moved into it in 1949. Three months after, our first son Bernard was born. We installed natural gas as the line passed nearby. Needless to say we were very happy about all this, a new house, a new baby, and a gas stove. What more could we ask?

Dad moved into town in 1953. In June, 1955, we bought a half-section and in October, 1962, we bought the last quarter. Our closest neighbors were Hans Eberhardt, Millers, Coles, John Hunchak, Fred Mayers, James Yakimyshyn, Leopold Benoit, my uncle, and Joe Baxandall.

Our family grew to six children — five boys and one girl. In 1964 we started a new house with Philip Bienvenue, our friend and neighbor, as the carpenter. We worked along with him. We moved in three years later in 1967, Centennial year. We especially enjoyed the running water which we didn't have before. We took the old log house down in 1965 so that we could improve our yard.

Things we remember:

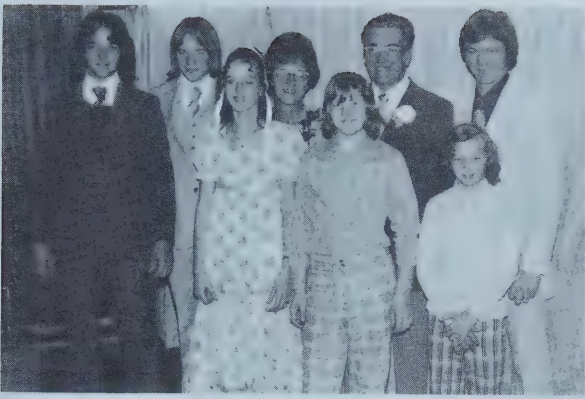
— the dances at Alida Hall, especially one time during a square dance. We were really swinging our partners, so much so that Fred Mayer flew out the front double doors and disappeared into the dark while the doors swung madly back and forth, and everyone roared with laughter.

— going with friends to a different neighbor's home every week to play the game "500".

— Beans Robert driving the school bus for every one of our six children from grades one to twelve

— all being sick one night and not waking up to the sound of the bus honking. Beans sent Kurt Mast in to see if we were all O.K.

— the time we put on a mock wedding for Mina Mayer and Philip Albrecht's shower. Ida Hohl read-



Noel and Frances Benoit's 25th wedding anniversary, 1973. Left to right: Barry, Donald, Eileen, Frances, Glenn, Noel, Bernard, Dale.



Oscar and Alphonsine Benoit — 50th wedding anniversary, 1957.

ing the gospel out of the Eaton's catalogue, trying to make herself heard above all the laughter.

— how all the neighbors rallied around in times of distress, pitched in and helped in one way or another.

— all the good times we've had at the Old Vegreville Community Centre — card parties, Christmas concerts, and picnics.

— the farmers always concerned about the weather, not trusting it if it was too nice, and complaining when it wasn't.

— picking turkeys at Fred Mayers.

— having 13 people on the party-line!!!

Old Vegreville is a wonderful community, made up of many nationalities. We are very thankful to have lived here all these years and raised our family in such a community.

We are still farming at present. This is our family:

Bernard, born 1949, is a government meat inspector and lives in Stettler.

Donald, born 1952, is the manager of the appliance department at Beaver Lumber in the Northtown Mall in Edmonton.

Barry, born 1955, works for N.A.D.P. in Edmonton.

Eileen, born 1958, married Del Baycroft who is the secretary for the Vice-president of the Edmonton Oilers Hockey team in Edmonton.

Glenn, born 1961, works for the Gulf Servico Centre in Vegreville.

Dale, born 1962, is in grade 12 and works part-time at the Gulf Servico Centre in Vegreville, also.

Benoit, Oscar and Alphonsine as told by Noel Benoit

Oscar and Alphonsine lived in Quebec where Dad was a worker in a grist and chop mill. This mill was run by a water wheel which was the power source

for the mill and dynamo that supplied power for the town of St. Gregoire. Oscar's father had sent word to them to come to the West, the land of opportunity. What did they have to lose? Oscar was earning a dollar a day and they were living in quarters on top of the mill. They became very excited, talked it over, and decided to move. They sold all they had for \$600.00. They had seven children at this time, ranging in age from one and a half to ten, and were expecting another. They boarded the colonization train with their children, Leo, Yvon, Clement, Antoinette, Camille, Rachel and Dolores, a few wedding dishes, and a trunk of clothes. An intolerable week was spent taking care of children and trying to sleep on the hard seats. As the train pulled into Vegreville, mother burst into tears and wailed, "I want to go home!"

Their temporary home was of one-ply lumber on the farm now owned by Jim Long. There were large cracks between many of the boards, revealing the scenery outside. An extremely hard winter followed. The children spent their time trying to keep warm and watching the chickens outside through the cracks in the wall.

In March they bought a used log house for \$60.00 from a neighbor. It was taken apart log by log. The nails were saved and straightened. Only one rafter was broken in the process, and a new one cost \$3.00. Three bags of cement were found in a closet, this was used to make a foundation. The log house was put together again on the site where we now live. At this time money was very scarce. After living in the house for a week they discovered the bedbugs! The bed springs were suspended from wires on the ceiling and a sheet was hung over the bed. This helped quite a bit. Even so, the babies were still red with spots in the morning.

The beds were made of poplar posts and the

mattresses were stuffed with straw. At first the bed was soft and comfortable, but by spring it was hard and back-breaking.

My mother also used straw to weave hats as she had been a hat-maker down East. The children cherished their straw beanies with a little button on top as Dad and the older boys did their wide brimmed hats.

As time went by more children came along, Noel, Marcel, Adrian and Emelda. There were eleven children in all.

At Christmas and New Year's, the horses were harnessed and the family set off on a two-hour trip to Vegreville for midnight mass. The sleigh was filled with straw, quilts and horse blankets. Many times we were invited to Adolph and Marie Tetreau's for lunch after mass, arriving home about 4 A.M.

Dad made extra money by selling firewood for \$3.00 a wagonload. One desperate winter Dad even resorted to selling a few jugs of homebrew for \$8.00 a gallon. This was a real windfall.

In spite of the hardships for the adults, the children were happy. Bob, a brown wolf-hound, brought them many hours of enjoyment. He was hitched to a homemade cart and ran like the wind — "Go Bob, Go!!" At times though, when he saw a gopher, he forgot all about his cargo. Straight under the fence he



Alphonsine Benoit and Indianna Paquette making sandwiches for Emelda Benoit's wedding dance. Approximately 1940.

ran, leaving the children stranded on the other side of the fence with torn clothes. Mother wasn't too pleased about this as each child only had one set of clothes. On wash day we were sent to bed while our clothes were washed.



Benoits (l. to r.) — standing: Oscar, Alphonsine, Leo, Camille, Yvon, Rachel, Clement, Antoinette, Dolores. Sitting: Marcel, Noel. About 1940.

In 1928, Dad scraped up enough money to buy a 1927 Chevy. What a day that was. One day Rachel sat in the car while Dad cranked. Unfortunately he forgot that it was still in gear — reverse gear!! He cranked furiously, and it started to sputter, then away it went, backwards, around and around in a circle with Rachel screaming inside and Dad running after it. Finally he managed to stop it.

Lional Forcade and his wife, Alma, were close friends and neighbors of our parents. They bought the quarter south of us from Pat Roberts. Mother enjoyed their friendship immensely as Alma and Lional spoke French and they would walk back and forth to visit.

In 1934 the Forcades moved to Legal and in 1939 Dad bought their quarter. In the 1940's Dad bought the quarter east of Forcades' from Louis Knies. I bought these three quarters from Dad later on. The boys were helping Dad farm by this time, so Dad bought three quarter-sections four miles east of us. We boys travelled back and forth to farm. Cattle were also kept there at times. Yvon bought the one-quarter around 1943 and Camille bought the half around 1956. They were both married by this time.

We sold the last work horses in 1958. We were very sorry to see them go, but they were not used any more and were getting old.

Oscar and Alphonsine moved to Vegreville in 1952. At this time Mother was blind as a result of diabetes. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on February 25, 1958.

Mother died in 1963 at the age of 74. Dad entered the Senior Citizens Home in Vegreville, and later entered one in St. Paul. He died in 1976 at the age of 93. We always enjoyed visiting him as he was a cheerful man and always full of jokes.

This is a list of the children:

Leo married Nancy Juba, Lake Wabamun.

Yvon married Emelia Poulin. They had two children, Claudette and Rejeanne. After her death, he married Susan Dubuc, a widow with two children, Dianne and Roger Dubuc. Yvon and Susan then had three children, Marie, Victor and Roseanne. They live in Vegreville.

Clement, deceased.

Antoinette married Paul Cote, Farnham, Quebec. They have five children.

Camille married Margaret Pelletier, Edmonton. They have five children: Renni, Daniel, Sylvia, Claude, Corrine.

Rachel married Norman Goddard, Edmonton.

Dolores married Armand Marcoux, St. Paul. They have ten children.

Noel married Frances Gellings, Vegreville. They

have six children: Bernard, Donald, Barry, Eileen, Glenn and Dale.

Marcel married Marie Goutier. They have six children.

Emelda married Gerald Jackson, Port Perry, Ontario. They have six children.

Bienvenu, Aristide and Aurore by Leona (Bienvenu) Drozdowich

The Aristide Bienvenu family lived one-half mile east of the original Old Vegreville Town Site. Aristide married Aurore Nadeau in February of 1903 in Quebec and they moved west five years later. They raised a family of eight, others died as babes. There were Antoinette, Germaine, Dianna, Roger, Marie Louise, John, Aurore, Joseph.

Antoinette (Mrs. Antonio Lemay) passed away in 1926. Germaine (Mrs. Alphonse Plouffe) passed away in 1938, leaving 4 children. Dianna became a nun in the order of our local hospital; she took the name of Sister Mathilde. Roger lives in Winfield, B.C.; Marie Louise (Mrs. August Pelletier) still lives in Vegreville as well as Aurore (Mrs. Raymond Robert). John passed away February, 1979, predeceased by his wife Lendina (Junker). Joseph lives in New Westminster.

When Joseph was born, his mother passed away in childbirth, March of 1918. In 1921, Aristide married Rebecca Barrie from the family of Napoleon Barrie, who used to live across the road from Old Vegreville School. Ruby and Aristide had 4 children: Phyllis (Mrs. Bert Dubuc) and Philip, who both still



A familiar sight to early Vegrevillians — Aristide Bienvenu in the sulky with "Belle", on his farm, 1934.



The Aristide Bienvenu children, 1972. Back row (l. to r.) — Leona Drozdowich, Phyllis Dubuc, Marie L. Pelletier, Aurore Robert, Sr. Mathilde, Philip Bienvenu, Roger Bienvenu, Theo Bienvenu, Joe Bienvenu. Front, sitting — John Bienvenu.

reside in Vegreville. Philip and Annette (Beaudette) are still on the original Bienvenu farm, having much improved it, of course! Theodore lives in Edmonton with his wife, Alice (Plouffe), and Leona lives in Vernon with her husband, Gordon Drozdowich.

There were many French people and all were friends or relatives so times were busy with a lot of visiting. Our childhood was happy, indeed, even if money wasn't plentiful (especially during the '30's). Dad raced a horse named Rex in cart races and Art Robert did too; the cause of much competition between the two families in a very friendly fashion (being brothers-in-law). Dad would sometimes go shopping with the racer in harness and buggy or cutter (in the winter time). Rex wouldn't lose much time. On one occasion, after being tied to the rails behind the Old Alberta Hotel while Mom and Dad shopped, he got very restless so when time came to go home he was raring to go. He turned the corner at the hotel so fast he hit the curb, upsetting the cutter onto the street with Mom and Dad, groceries and Christmas gifts strewn all over.

I can remember Mom saying she didn't want to go shopping with that racer anymore. She had been very embarrassed.

The family used to go to church every Sunday to St. Martin's R.C. in either a democrat or cutter or caboose, arriving back after 12 noon, starved, usually with visitors arriving to share a big noon meal.

Mother passed away in April of 1943 and Dad in March of 1953. Dad spent his last few years in hospital as he couldn't feed himself or shave, etc. He had a private room and came and went at will. He enjoyed it there as he visited the sick and played checkers even with his shaky hands. He had a shaking palsy or



Taken in 1916 at Dumont's after Mass, with St. Martin's school and church in the background. Front (l. to r.) — Mrs. Nadeau (mother of the first Mrs. Bienvenu), Mrs. Henry Dumont with baby Dee in carriage and Pete, Charlie and Mary nearby; Grandpa Nadeau, whose son "Rum" will be remembered as janitor at the school above. Back: in the buggy — seven little Bienvenus with parents, Aristide and Aurore.

type of Parkinsons. It was never diagnosed as a specific disease. He had had sleeping sickness and serious back injury by a bull goring him, thus they felt the nerves couldn't co-ordinate any longer.

The family remains a very close-knit unit.

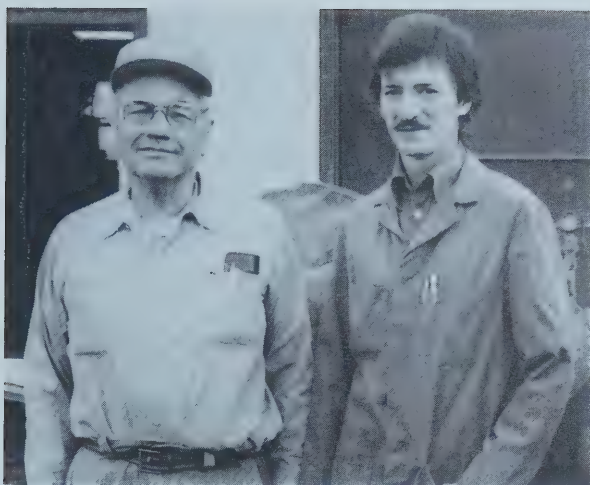
Bird, Bruce and Gladys by Gladys Bird

Bruce and Gladys Bird, with their three children, — Treva, Reggie and Brenda, — came to Vegreville in 1954, from Claresholm, in southern Alberta.

Bruce arrived in January, to set up his business, which was to be Vegreville's first specialized tire shop. Through realtor Bill Morton, who was, at that time, the mayor of the town, Bruce bought a building from Mr. Nikiforuk, who had closed his blacksmith shop to retirement. It was located on the south side of the Yellowhead Highway 16 where Vinet's Tom-Boy parking lot is now situated. To the immediate west was McIntosh Motors car lot and garage, with the Treasury Branch (smaller than now) on the corner which faced the Post-Office across the street. To the east was the Highway Cafe, George's Grocery, the Egg-Grading Station, a John Deere agency and, on the corner, was Ed Reidlinger's garage. Directly across the street was Macleods and Paul's Grocery. Many changes have taken place in that block since then.

Bruce opened "Birdie's Tire Shop" in early February — the name he chose was a "take-off" from his own last name, — a nick-name he had grown accustomed to, during both his school and army days.

Housing was very scarce in Vegreville in those days, and nothing suitable was available for the family. Ed Lemiski was hired to build a temporary apartment in the back of the tire shop. The family arrived on February 20, and "camped" in those rooms for several months, before a house was found.



Bruce Bird — Original owner of Birdie's Tire Shop, with Barrie Caskey, manager of Market Tire — who now owns the Shop, 1979.

One day a very kind gentleman came into the shop and told Bruce that he had heard that we were a family in need of a home. He said he had a house for rent, and we could have first chance to rent it. We moved in immediately and began to feel "at home" in Vegreville.

The house was across the street from the C.P.R. station, which was then in active service, with Jack Spence the agent. The owner, our kind benefactor, was Mr. J. Kuzyk, the father of Dr. Nick and of school-teacher Stanley. We have never forgotten how considerate and thoughtful he was, to trust us, complete strangers, and to give us such a practical and friendly welcome. We became acquainted with him, as he repainted and repaired the big old house, and we were saddened, as were his long-time friends, when he accidentally met his death, a short time later.

We lived in that house for a year, until we bought a new house in Mount Pleasant, built by Mr. John Kubrak and his sons. We have remained there ever since.

In 1959 Birdie's Tire shop moved to a new location, several blocks west, on the north side of Highway 16, — between what was then Steve Kereliuk's Drive-In and Yakimyshyn Motors. The former location was sold, the old building was moved to Andrew, and a Tom-Boy store replaced it.

Bruce continued to operate "Birdie's Tire" for twenty-six years until October 1, 1979. Upon his retirement, he sold out to "Market Tire".

Bruce had served on the town council for a number of years and had supported all town and community projects that his work would allow. He contributed to all good causes, and was especially interested in the hockey team of a few years ago, and

took his turn at supplying their transportation. He had several certificates from the Red Cross, in recognition of his more than eighty donations as a blood donor.

The two oldest children were already in school when we arrived here. Treva was in Grade IX, and Reggie was in Grade V. Brenda was ten years younger than Reggie, and she celebrated her first birthday in Vegreville, a few days after arriving here.

Treva attended Peter Svarich High school, where Mr. Gordon Strong was the Principal. She was especially interested and active in Neil Cassidy's Drama and Music class, and took part in several of his projects. The highlight of her school career was playing the lead role in Mr. Cassidy's presentation of the three-act play — "Ladies In Retirement". She was active in the United Church Youth Group, and played the piano, and at times the organ in the Sunday School, and often for the church, to relieve the organist. She was the leader of the Girls' Explorer group, and attended the Naramata Training School for a summer session, when Rev. Ted Thomas was the Minister. Treva graduated from High School in 1958, trained in the Royal Alec. Hospital in Edmonton where she received her R.N. She was married in the Vegreville church by Rev. Charles Hickman in 1963, to Bill Good. They now live in Calgary, with their two children.

Reg finished his Grade V in the old red brick school that is now a storage garage, and his teacher was Mr. A. Rogalsky. When school reopened for the new fall term, he was excited to learn who his new teacher would be. When he arrived home at noon he announced that Mr. A. Rogalsky had "Passed" to Grade VI too! Reg was active in school sports, was a left-handed catcher for the High School baseball team, and was on winning teams in bowling and curling. He played the part of "KO-KO" in Mr. Cassidy's production of the Operetta, "The Mikado", and played his sax in the orchestra that Mr. Cassidy trained and used in his other Musicals. From a Journal delivery boy, Reg advanced to after-school jobs of one year at Macleods and two at Ed Kassians's Men's store. He graduated from the Peter Svarich High School in 1961, with Mr. Strong the Principal. He was awarded the Legion Scholarship, and also the John Hurlburt Memorial, which he was unable to retain because it had to be used at the U. of A. and Reg had been accepted for Officer's Training into the Royal Military College of Canada. After two years at Royal Roads in Victoria, and two more at R.M.C. in Kingston Ontario., he graduated in 1965 as a Flying Officer, and with a Degree in Electrical Engineering. After working in the Air force for four years, where he met his wife, Susan, he returned to civilian life,

and now works for the city of Edmonton. They live on an acreage near Sherwood Park, with their two little girls.

Brenda, like the other two, was actively involved in both church and school activities. She received all her schooling in Vegreville and took music from Mrs. Clements Senior, and from Mr. G. Kuwata. She was on the High School basketball team and worked in Students' Union activities. Skating was her very special interest; she was a charter member in the Figure Skating Club, and had reached her seventh Figure and two final gold dances, when the pressure of University study forced her to quit. Brenda graduated in 1971 from the Composite High School, under Mr. Harry Chomik's Principalship. She was awarded the Rotary Trip to Ottawa and was chosen to be the Valedictorian for her Graduation Class. At the University of Alberta, she joined the Mixed Chorus, and taught Figure Skating for the Edmonton Community Leagues. In 1975, Brenda graduated from the U. of A. with a Degree in Hospital Pharmacy. In August of the same year she married Bill Cantelon, a son of Hart Cantelon, a former United Church Minister in Vegreville. They went to Toronto, where she worked as a pharmacist in Sunnybrook Medical Centre, while Bill attended University to complete his Theology. They returned to Alberta in 1977, and lived at Oyen Alberta. Now they live at Stettler where Bill is the United Church minister and Brenda is the hospital pharmacist. They have a baby daughter, to make their new home complete.

Gladys, wife and mother, has worked in every project involving other members of the family, as well as on those of her own interest. She has served on the Executives, as well as with the regular duties, of such groups as the Home and School, Figure Skating Club and in all departments of the United Church, including the Official Board, Sunday School, Women's groups and the choir. History was made when she and Mrs. Vi. Cantrell were the first two women to receive a summons to serve on a jury in Vegreville (or so we were told). Dr. Edmunds was the Coroner, and the case was an inquest into the sudden death of a man, working on the highway. Gladys was also the first and only woman appointed to serve as a member on the first Recreation Board, set up by the town council.

Her very special interest was music, and she introduced, arranged and directed, with lots of help and inspiration from the members of the cast, the five musical "Firelight Teas" that were performed in the United Church some years ago. A choir member for many years, she was a soloist for many weddings, funerals and anniversaries, etc.

For the last ten years, she had been busy and

happy, working with the young students in the Study Hall of the Composite High School.

Black, Miss M.R.

Courtesy of Vegreville Observer

A devoted and well respected member of the community for the past 53 years, Miss Mary Robina Black (Nurse Black) passed quietly on to her reward on Sunday, January 15, 1978. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church on January 18. She was 85 years of age.

Nurse Black, who since 1925 served the Vegreville area as Provincial Health Nurse until 1952 and continued her work in the community as senior nurse with the Vegreville Health Unit until retiring in 1962, will be fondly remembered over a wide span of the Vegreville area as a compassionate person who filled her role in the professional field and who accepted personal obligations cheerfully even through the most trying times. Her home at the eastern outskirts of Vegreville became a landmark as have the residences of many of the long-time members of Vegreville become.

In September of 1965 she was one of three to be honored by the community on the occasion of retire-



Old "Dad Black" ready for attendance at an Elks meeting, 1947.

ment, at which time she was the recipient of a Vegreville Lions Club Achievement Award as well as a token of recognition by the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the community.

She was born on a farm near Hartney, Manitoba, on January 9, 1893, to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton Ryerson Black, and her father in later years became affectionately known in this locality as "Dad" Black. She attended school at St. Mary's in London, Ontario, and completed her formal education when graduated from the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing, St. Boniface, Manitoba. Following three years as a private duty nurse in Manitoba she entered the public health field as a nurse with the Manitoba Government for one year and arrived in Vegreville to assume the same responsibilities in the employ of the Alberta Government.

During the course of her life in public duties "she left her mark" on countless children and adults by way of vaccination, immunization and the like carried on by the Department of Health.

Like most persons who are devoted to their careers she took a keen interest in following the lives, successes and failures, of the young people in the



Mrs. M. Collison and Nurse Black — 1944. The Public Health Nurse was an important and regular visitor to rural and district schools. Pictured above, the face and figure familiar to students and teachers alike, Miss Black, with rural teacher Mrs. M. Collison at Park Grove School.



Miss Black's retirement, 1965.

community for whom she had cared through three generations. Her interests went beyond her career call and she was able to find relaxation and pleasure through participating in hobby gardening and some minor field cropping on the acreage adjoining her home. In addition she was a devoted parishioner of St. Martin's Parish and a member of the Catholic Women's League.

Among her survivors were a sister, Mrs. Margaret Pusey, of Vegreville; a nephew, George Pusey of Sundre, Alberta; a niece, Bernice, Mrs. Dean Marshall of Sheridan, Wyoming; 7 grand-nephews; 4 grand-nieces; and 6 great-grand-nephews.

Rev. J. Ayling celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial and interment was made thereafter in the Riverside Cemetery, Vegreville. Pallbearers included Henry Landry, Bernard Plouffe, Nick Chomik, Robert Robert, Raymond Tetreau and John Huzil.

Blackburn Family **by Robert H. Blackburn**

Robert (R.P.) Blackburn, my grandfather moved to Vegreville from Ryley in the fall of 1918, with his wife Emma and daughter Lila. He had been born and raised on a farm at Union, Pennsylvania, and as a young man he farmed nearby at Oxford. He sold the



John Blackburn with Agnes, Edna and Stan Ryan. 1930.

farm and moved his young family to Denver for his wife's health, but the drier climate did not arrest her tuberculosis. His second wife, Emmaline Wilson, daughter of the newspaper editor in Abilene, Kansas, was a court reporter in Denver when he met her and they enjoyed Denver society together for nearly ten years - that period accounts for the crystal and hand-painted china and polished mahogany furniture which his grandchildren have inherited, and the swallow-tailed suit he wanted me to have when I entered University. He prospered in Denver and moved his soap-manufacturing business to Chicago in 1909, but there his wife became a semi-invalid and in 1910 his business went broke.

To make a new start, at age 41, he moved to Alberta in the early spring of 1911. His brother Tom (T.A. Blackburn) had moved from Nebraska to Edmonton in 1905, and prospered in buying and selling farms. His brother Oliver (O.C. Blackburn) had already bought land at Ryley and in the Vegreville district but at that time he was running a farm and horse-auction business in Kansas; he helped my grandfather buy horses and machinery there to ship to Alberta along with his fine furniture as "settler's effects". With a loan of \$5,000 from these two brothers, R. P. Blackburn was soon settled on a section of land at Amisk Creek west of Ryley, broke 600 acres, built a big square house, paid off his debt, and by the fall of 1918 had prospered so well that he decided to move to Vegreville and go into the cattle business. He bought four sections (2,560 acres) of pasture land south of town and moved with his wife and daughter to a rented house in Vegreville, where they enjoyed the social life of the town. They entertained and played bridge with the Holdens and Reids and Frasers and Couillards and others, and there were



Family group taken at farm home of John and Palma Blackburn near Lavoy, Alberta about 1933. Front (l. to r.) — Levi Humbargar (visiting from U.S.), John Blackburn, Margaret (Wilson) Humbargar — sister of Emmeline (Wilson) Blackburn; Elizabeth (Betty) Blackburn being held by Aunt Margaret; Palma (Olson) Blackburn (at rear) 1888-1965; Marian Karen Blackburn, Mar. 21, 1921 — Dec. 25, 1934; Emmeline (Wilson) Blackburn — wife of Robert P. Blackburn, 1868-1939; Robin Harold Blackburn (at back); Robert P. Blackburn, 1870-1963; Lila Blackburn, 1893-1941.



Olga Tyzuk (rear). Betty Blackburn, Joan Patterson, Phyllis Hughes, about 1938.



Victory School picnic, about 1934. Hark Morris, Stanley Ryan, Mrs. Rosequist in foreground.

books and music for Grandmother whose background had never prepared her for being a farmer's wife.

In 1921 the bottom dropped out of the cattle market because of a new American tariff on beef, and R. P. Blackburn became a farmer again, with poor equipment on poor land which he had bought for grazing, nine miles southeast of town. They managed to keep in touch with the bridge club and their Vegreville friends as long as Grandmother's health permitted; I remember her taking long walks along the edge of the pasture with her friends in their town shoes and Sunday dresses. Aunt Lila, whose eyesight was always poor, was busy with housework and her piano, and a large flower-garden for which Grandfather hauled barrels of water on a stone-boat from the windmill. Grandfather was a tireless worker and in spite of a new succession of setbacks he never complained or let up. His wife had a stroke, and was bedridden for four years. He lost his barn to fire when a model T backfired. He had a few fair crops of wheat but more poor ones because of hail or drought; I remember being on the threshing outfit at his place one fall in the mid-thirties when sheaves were light as feathers, and it took two or three long rows of stooks to fill a bundle-rack.

Finally in the spring of 1939, by selling the last of the pasture land, he managed to pay off the mortgage on the home farm and be clear of debt for the first time in 29 years. He spent all one afternoon getting the papers signed in a law office in Edmonton and drove straight home without stopping. Next day Dr. Reid had to send him back to Edmonton for surgery, and he was never able to work again. While he was in the hospital his wife died, and Lila followed two years later. My mother and my sister Betty kept house for him for a year, and then in 1942 he moved to Edmonton and did not return to Vegreville, except to visit though he lived till 1963, his ninety-fourth year. My sister and I took her children to visit the old farmhouse in 1978; it stood in a plowed field, open to the weather, inhabited by sparrows.

John (J.H.) Blackburn, my father, was born at Oxford, Pennsylvania in 1895 and had just completed grade ten in Chicago before moving to Canada with his family. He was never able to continue his formal education, and so it gave him special satisfaction, many years later, to be asked to give lectures at the University of Alberta.

He worked on the farm at Amisk Creek with his father until the summer of 1917, when he bought a section of land five miles south of Lavoy (at \$22 an acre) and moved on to it with a herd of 72 cattle. That same December, at age 22, he married Palma Olson, whose parents had left Norway on their honeymoon



Betty Blackburn's 7th Birthday, 1937. Back (l. to r.) — Stella Allore, Eva Kostnuk, Lorraine Allore, Genivieve Rattray, Betty Blackburn and Phyllis Hughes.

and pioneered in Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and finally at Amisk Creek. He was married in moccasins, unable to wear shoes because he had frozen his toes while hauling straw for cattle.

In their first three years at Lavoy, my parents had three crop failures (frost, then drought, then hail). In 1921, on account of the new American tariff, they sold their cattle for less than they had paid a year earlier and found themselves \$26,000 in debt. I can remember going out to the field with Mother to carry supper and breakfast out to Dad, as he would be on the tractor 50 or 60 hours at a time to get the crop in quickly. At harvest time he mounted two kerosene lanterns on the binder and would cut grain all night. It is no wonder that he developed lung trouble in 1929 and had to live in a tent in the yard that summer. That ended his career as an active farmer except at harvest time when he ran the threshing outfit. The regular farmwork was then done for several years by Wilhelm and Marius Christensen who began as hired men and then rented for several years on a crop-sharing basis, while he continued to live on the farm.

During his farming days he had also been active in various community projects. In 1919 he and Hart Morris and Joe St. Peter formed the first school board in our district; as secretary-treasurer Dad did all the arranging for land and construction of Victory School and placed an ad in the Vegreville Observer as well as Edmonton Journal for a teacher to begin that fall. In 1920 he took the initiative which brought telephones to our district, and fifteen years later, when the Alberta Government Telephone service was being withdrawn, he formed a company to buy up the local lines and continue the service. In August 1923, after the Canadian Wheat Board had lapsed and the

price had dropped in two years from \$2.63 to 77 cents a bushel, he attended a formative meeting of the Alberta Wheat Pool in Camrose, and then put all other work aside to go canvassing for members. After signing up 110 farmers in the Lavoy district, he became president of the Lavoy Local of the Wheat Pool Association. He also helped to organize and build the community hall and later the United Church in Lavoy. Neighbours also used to come to him for help with their legal notices and other papers. I even remember one young man coming for help in writing a marriage proposal; the recipient of the proposal, after accepting and becoming a wife, wrote Father a thank-you letter which her husband signed in the only way he knew, with XOXOX.

During Dad's illness in 1929, he received a "disability income" from his life insurance policy. This led to his beginning a second career, as a life insurance agent, in the spring of 1930, and his enthusiasm for insurance kept him at it in spite of the depression and some years in which he barely managed to sell the \$50,000 minimum required to keep his contract with the company. After the war, in Edmonton, he was able to sell more than a million dollars worth of insurance annually for several years. He led his company in Canadian sales, and served for a year as president of the Canadian Association of Life Underwriters.

His third career was an aviator. As a teenager he chanced to see Orville Wright take off from a field in Ohio, and prayed that he might have a flight himself someday. In 1918 he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps but was still at ground-school in Toronto when the war ended. He joined the Edmonton Flying Club when it was formed in 1929 and after attending an evening ground-school with Joe Austin and several others in Merle Thomas' garage in Vegreville, he took instruction in Edmonton and got his private flying licence. In 1941 he joined the RCAF but was rejected as a pilot because of his age, and served for more than four years on various Canadian stations as an officer in flying control and air-sea rescue. At the Service Flying Training School in Calgary he enrolled with a class of student pilots and graduated at the head of the class while continuing to work full shifts in the control tower, but Airforce Headquarters still refused to award him "wings" on account of his age. However he managed to spend more than a thousand hours in the air and to fly service aircraft of many kinds, and just before leaving the Airforce he flew alone over the Rockies, from Calgary to Vancouver, in an old training plane that lacked even a radio. He capped this career in 1949, at age 53, by winning the Webster Trophy as the best amateur pilot in Canada.



Left to right: Stella Allore, Mr. Louie Bricker, Betty Blackburn at town pump, Lavoy, 1939.

His fourth career, as an author, had early beginnings. He often wrote verses for my sister and me to recite at Christmas concerts and wrote stories for us when we were sick. In the thirties he spent many winter evenings at his typewriter, writing flying stories which he hoped the Saturday Evening Post might use to follow their "Earthworm Tractor" stories, but the Post declined. In the forties he rewrote a family history *The Blackburn Story* which was privately published in Edmonton. Finally, in 1970 Macmillans of Canada published *Land of Promise*, his book about the farm years at Lavoy.

My mother had no more conveniences to aid her in her work than did her mother. She never had running water or electricity. As long as we lived on the farm we burned coal and wood in our stoves and used kerosene lamps. Mother had to stoke the fires and carry out the ashes while it was my job from the time I was five years old to remember to keep the wood-box filled. Mother washed clothes every Monday with a heavy wooden washing machine that had an oscillating dolly that was turned by hand, made her own soap, made most of our clothes on a Singer sewing machine Dad gave her for Christmas soon after they were married, raised a large flock of chickens and traded any eggs we didn't eat for groceries at Bricker's store in Lavoy, made all of our bread from our own flour which we processed at the flour mill in Vegreville, planted and harvested a large vegetable garden every year and preserved most of the vegetables and fruits, pickles, jams and jellies that we would eat during the winter, canned chicken and pork, made "scrapple" from scraps of pork using an old Pennsylvania Dutch recipe that had been a favorite of the Blackburn family for years, and did all the hundred and one things that all farm women expected

to and were expected to do. Mother spent most of her evenings knitting and listening to the radio. She enjoyed having friends and neighbours drop in and going to family get-togethers at Elk Island National Park with her relatives from Amisk Creek or visiting with Dad's cousin, Paul Smith and his family. She and Dad often played bridge with friends in Lavoy or Vegreville and Mother helped with the Ladies' Aid at the United Church in Lavoy.

The third generation of Blackburns associated with the Vegreville district began with me, Robert H.. Then came Marion and Harold, who both died in childhood of sicknesses which would have been cured quickly with today's medical resources. My sister Betty, the youngest, and the only one who was actually born in our farmhouse rather than a hospital, went to school at Victory, and Lavoy, and Imperial in Grandfather's district, before moving to Edmonton with our mother and grandfather. She is now Mrs. Ronald P. Mullen, enjoying life with her husband, a dentist who specializes in orthodontics, and their two children, Lynne and Jim. She is actively involved in volunteer work including the Edmonton YWCA and the church and for several years has edited the Journal of the Canadian Home Economics Association.

I was born at the R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville. My mother had got there a few hours earlier after a bumpy fifteen-mile ride at thirty-five below, with warm rocks in the bottom of the cutter to keep her feet warm. During my childhood, Vegreville was our big town for shopping and entertainment. There was Chautauqua in a big tent for several days in summer, with plays and lectures and music, and a dress-up parade with prizes on children's day. And a real circus once. And there were baseball tournaments with teams from near and far. And the annual Vegreville Fair. And the big water-tower on stilts, beside which we had a family picnic one fairtime and Dad frightend us by climbing right up to the top where the ladder sloped out along the side of the tank. And one fair-time I entered the yo-yo contest in front of the grandstand, in a strong wind, and Jake Olyan had an advantage because he used a short string, but his string broke so I won first prize, seventy-five cents, which paid our expenses that afternoon. And there were ice-cream sodas between the artificial palm trees at the back of Wener's Bakery. And the Vimy Theatre where all thirty kids from Victory School, transported in the back of Dad's truck, went to see Ben Hur; and where Dad took me another time to see Hell's Angels. And some of our more daring neighbours went to the Vimy once to see Sally Rand do her fan dance, and argued long after about whether she wore some kind of pink rubber suit. And sometimes there was dinner at the Alberta



Palma (Mrs. J.H.) Blackburn with Robert and Marian. Wash-day on the farm south of Lavoy about 1926.



Four generations of Blackburns, in 1945. Standing: Robert H. and John H. Seated: Robert P. holding great-grandson Robert G.

Hotel, which had a mirror all along one side of the dining room, and the salted soda crackers came lined up in a long box formed out of a linen napkin, and the bill came tucked alongside some toothpicks in the fold of another napkin, and upstairs was an indoor toilet with running water! And there was the annual Vegreville District School Fair at which I (at age 12) was tied with one of the Gould boys, for taking most prizes, and so we both won a week's shortcourse at the Vermilion Agriculture College; and the girl who won was Margery McCrea, whom I admired (from a great distance) for her long red ringlets.

After taking ten grades at the one-room Victory School near the farm, I rode horseback five miles to Lavoy for grade eleven, and for grade twelve I moved to Vegreville High, and boarded with the Bob Moores whose son Guy had just gone off to University. Guy and I played my first (and almost only) game of golf on the new course just west of town, the day before its official opening, amid gopher-holes and other unconventional hazards. After high school I intended to study medicine, so Principal Miller generously stayed after school to prepare me for the departmental examinations in German 1 and 2. Graduation ceremonies in the spring of 1936 were held in the Vimy theatre and when my name was called I had some trouble climbing up to the stage, as I had fallen from a horse and was temporarily on crutches. Mr. Horton, editor of the Observer, was giving out the prizes and made some remark about accomplishment in spite of handicaps - my parents were amused and found many occasions later to refer to my handicap. And it was to the Catholic hospital in Vegreville that we rushed my mother the time the gasoline iron exploded in her face and scarred her for life.

After high-school, my contacts with Vegreville became quite infrequent. I spent winters at the University and had summer jobs elsewhere (Banff, California, British Columbia) but usually got home to help at least with the threshing.

My last visit with Grandad on his farm was in the fall of 1941. When I left he drove me up to the highway and watched me begin my hike toward further studies in the East. As I walked along the gravel highway up Brinton's hill, carrying my raincoat and typewriter, Charlie Brinton came along toward town with a load of grain. He stopped his horses to ask where I was off to, and when I said "Toronto" he whistled and wished me luck. I have not been back to Vegreville since, except as a nostalgic traveller driving through.

Bohaychuk, Andrew

by Mary (Bohaychuk) Huzil

In 1900, Teodor Bohaychuk, his wife and family of four boys arrived in Halifax, Canada, from the Ukraine (then called Austria), and travelled by train to Strathcona (now called Edmonton). He had sold all his belongings in the Ukraine to pay for passage to Canada and for the \$10.00 per homestead fee.

The family homesteaded one and one-half miles north of Royal Park, Alberta, where they lived in a dug-out home until they cleared some land and built a log home.

One hardship was the long sixty-odd mile walk to Edmonton for salt and sugar which was carried home on the back of one of the older boys — one son froze



Gathering of Bohaychuks, Chilibeckis, Fedewichs and Huzils — at the home where Andrew Bohaychuk brought his family in 1925 (house still standing at corner of 55 Ave. and 52 St.). The occasion — 25th wedding anniversary for Andrew and Elena Bohaychuk, 1941. Seated centre with small son, Laurie, between them. Their other children are all in the front row, kneeling: Mary, 2nd from left, then Anne; Olga, 3rd from right, then Alice and Max.

his feet so badly that he lost all his toes with a great deal of pain. There were no doctors available to help him.

The boys left the homestead as they married and acquired homesteads of their own. Andrew married Elena Chilibecki whose parents, four brothers and one sister came to a homestead north of Vegreville in 1901.

Andrew sold his land in 1924, bought a 1920 Model T. Ford and moved his family to Vegreville, where he had purchased a livery barn and bunkhouse. Farmers for miles around hauled their grain and livestock to Vegreville for shipment. They kept their horses in the livery barn for 50¢ a day and slept in the bunkhouse for free.

In 1926, Andrew bought land four and one-half miles east of Vegreville which he farmed till retirement, but always resided in Vegreville.

In October 1929, the livery barn burned down, so it was farming only for a living then. Farming was not too lucrative in later years, so Andrew and Elena started building homes, several of which are on what was called Hospital Road or Diaper Avenue.

Andrew and Elena had a family of six children: Annie, Mary, Max, Alice, Olga, and Laurie.

Bolan, Patrick

Patrick Bolan came west as a young man from Newmarket, Ontario in 1889; he travelled by train to Calgary, working in lumber camps in the Banff vicinity for five years at about \$2.00 per twelve hour day. When he had saved enough, he bought an "out-fit" consisting of a young team of horses, a brand new set of harness, a wagon, and a walking plough.

In the spring of 1894, he and a friend, Bob Stewart, drove from Calgary to an area, now Willingdon, some seventy miles east of Edmonton where each took up a homestead. Other settlers who landed in that district that year, mostly from Ontario but a few from Quebec and the States, were: Cinnamons, Johnstons, Hughsons, Littlechilds, Albistands, Niblocks, Bibbys, Langs, Kennedys, McDonalds. Some stayed there only a short while; for example, Si Richardson soon moved to Halry Hill, then Vegreville.

On November 22, 1897, Patrick Bolan married Albina Pigeon, who had come west in 1894 from Montreal with her people, most of whom soon moved into Edmonton. Bolan's first home which they called "the shack" was built of logs, cut down and hewn by hand. It had a sod roof and when it rained for three days, which happened quite often, the only dry spot was under the bed, so that's where the sugar and flour were kept. Bolans moved into their new, *shingle-roofed* home in 1901. The night

after the move it poured rain, and Mrs. Bolan, safe in their dry new house, couldn't help but say: "Oh, those poor people in the sod shacks!" Whereupon her weary husband replied: "Well you're dry now, so shut up and go to sleep!"

In the fall of 1894, Mr. Bolan had his first glimpse of the Vegreville district. His precious team of horses had broken their haltershanks and were gone; borrowing a saddle horse, he rode around for a couple of days in the Whitford district but found no trace of his animals. Then he came to the conclusion that the horses must have headed back to their previous home in Calgary. So on the saddle pony, accompanied by a kind neighbor with wagon and grub-stake, Bolan started south. When he got to the Vermilion River he found the beginnings of the Vegreville colony (now called "Old Vegreville") where a kind French settler told him two horses had come there ten days before. Knowing they were run-aways by their broken halter-shanks, he had tied them up, but a week later they broke loose and were gone again. (N.B. This episode is noted in the diary of Old Vegreville, but the date there is given as June, 1894.) Bolan knew then that he was on the right track so he continued south and found his team at Duhamel where a kind settler had caught and tied them, for which Bolan was eternally thankful.

The closest store to Bolans' district, then called Whitford, was at Edmonton, so if someone decided to go for supplies, he spent the previous day making the rounds of the neighborhood to get a list of all their needs. No one locked a door in those days; if a needy neighbor came to a house when the occupants were out, he would take what he required, leaving a note of explanation. Everyone trusted everyone. A shopping expedition took a week for the Bolans; two days on the road to Edmonton, several days there to do business and visit Mrs. Bolan's relatives, then two days' return.

The area around Soda Lake was mostly prairie with few trees, no fences and no roads. Settlers broke virgin soil with walking ploughs. It was slow work, but each year they would add more until eventually a hundred acres would be broken out of the quarter-section homestead. Bolan got his first binder, a McCormick, in 1898, hauling it home from Edmonton behind the wagon. In places the trail was too narrow for the machine, so he had to chop roadside bush to get the binder through. Since it was the first binder in the district (grain having been hand reaped previously), the neighbors came and did Bolan's stooking while he cut their grain with the new machine.

Some of the original settlers became discouraged and moved away; Ukrainian and Rumanian people started moving in around 1900. All these people

worked hard together, and soon thrived, building good farmsteads and raising fine families.

Bolans raised a family of eight, the oldest, Wilfrid and Irene, attended Manawan school, a log-plastered building which opened in 1904, two and one-half miles north and one mile west of present Willingdon. Irene's first teacher was Miss Fullerton, who later married George Cinnamon of that district. In 1909, a frame school, called Schkowicz, was erected one mile west of present Willingdon; Pat Bolan acted as secretary-treasurer of that school which his children attended until about 1920. Bolans, being ardent Catholics, sent some of their children to finish their education at the convent in Vegreville. Some early teachers at Schkowica included: Yellande, MacTavish, Holmes, Hyde, Hutchinson, Forbes, MacDonald and Miss Claire La Fleur of Vegreville.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolan were beloved in the Whitford area where they farmed at N.E. 16-56-15 W4 until retirement to Vegreville in 1948; there they enjoyed visiting with old friends and family and regular church attendance until death came to both in 1955.

Their immediate family consists of: Wilfrid, who farmed in the Willingdon area and later worked at St. Joseph's Hospital, Vegreville; he married Leona Jewell in 1935; and is now retired at Slave Lake; Leona died in 1979 leaving their children: Patrick, Slave Lake; Lois Schultz (married Elmer who died in an airplane accident, 1978) farms south of Vegreville with her children and Albina Miller of Coronation. Irene was a telephone operator and postal worker in Willingdon until 1940 when she moved to Vegreville with her parents; she worked in the Post Office here briefly, then in the Alberta Hotel until her retirement in 1943. Irene resides at 4802-49 Avenue when she is not out hiking, attending church affairs, or card parties. Until recently she enthusiastically annually entered the local Walkathon and kept up to or passed much younger walkers! Anita, R.N., trained at Vegreville General Hospital; now of Seattle. Mamie Tiedemann retired in Edmonton. Clara Turner, retired in Vancouver. Twins, Ada and Ida, entered the Daughters of Providence, (in 1929) and became teachers: Sr. Mary Gertrude and Sr. Mary de Lorette. The former taught for some years at St. Martin's School in Vegreville; both now living in Saskatchewan. Alberta, helped on a farm at Willingdon; moved to Vegreville with parents in 1948; in 1949 married Loyal Tillapaugh; raised three children: Edward, plumber, married 1978 to Pamela Baxandall and living in town; Frederick, assistant manager of News-Advertiser, Vegreville; Agnes, Yellowknife, married Galen Orser, 1978. Alberta worked mainly at St. Joseph's

General Hospital, Vegreville, where her cheerful industry was appreciated by all; now retired at 5449—45 Street.

Bossé, Ivan

Ivan Bossé with his wife, Margaret, and four-month-old son, Francis, arrived in Warwick in October, 1941, to make their permanent home. Margaret had been raised here but had been away for several years.

They took over Mrs. Teresa McKenzie's farm, and their neighbors at that time were Mr. and Mrs. George Tomyn. Directly across the road, on the corner were Mike and Nick Triska. Directly behind them lived James and Ada Hughston and their family, to the south was Vi and Roscoe Woods and their family, and on the south quarter of the same section as the Bosse's, lived John and Ev Teare and family.

Farming was done with the horses until 1945 when the tractor took over. In the fall of 1947 a brand new John Deere was purchased.

Ivan liked animals and there were horses, cows, pigs and sheep as well as all kinds of poultry.

The grain was hauled three-and-a-half miles to Warwick by horses until 1943 and then trucks were used.

The first combine for this family was bought in 1953; before that the threshing machine made its rounds.

Three more children were born to this family, Kathleen Ann in 1945, Theodore Douglas in 1947, and Austin Ivan in 1949.

These children were happy farm children and enjoyed their animal pets, particularly their horses, dogs, and cats. Francis had favorite cows that would come home when he called them.

Horseback riding was a favorite pastime. They had swimming pools in the Vermilion River. The boys made rafts and they helped their Dad trap beavers.

Occasionally the river would flood. The first flood they experienced was when Francis was two years old. On a walk over to Jim Hughstons, Francis looked at the river and said, "All wet." At the same time the men of the neighborhood had to help Roscoe Woods rescue his hogs which were swimming around in his big barn by the river.

Francis became an accountant and after spending sometime in Edmonton, moved to Winterburn to live on an acreage. In 1966 he married Jennifer Kilbarn, a music teacher, and they have two daughters, Adele and Aline.

Ted became a lawyer and practices in Edmonton. In 1972 he married Teresa Kotelko of Hairy Hill. They made their home in Edmonton and have a little daughter called Heather.

Kathy married Nick Czar in 1972 and they make their home in Vegreville. They are the proud parents of two children, Natalie Teresa and Michael Ivan.

Austy is an electrical draftsman and, after working in Edmonton for awhile, moved to Saskatoon, Sask. He was married to Lesley Carefoot of Edmonton in 1976, and they are the happy parents of a baby son called Jason Alexander.

The children and their young dogs had many happy times playing with the children of the neighborhood — they being Walter Gafka's four girls, Alfred Booher's two boys and Lyle Hughston's three girls.

The Fairwood Community Centre which was formed after the school closed was a place of many happy functions.

Of course the Town of Vegreville had many attractions and the family drove there often. One of the highlights was the fair each year.

Margaret taught school at Vegreville and Hairy Hill for a period of eleven years and in 1972 retired. Then in 1973 Ivan retired from farming and they moved to Spruce Grove to be near their family. In 1975 the farm was divided and the home quarter was sold to Orest Zayatz and family and they reside there now.

Ivan still enjoys looking after his grain farm with Bill Dobush as a very competent renter.

Bourget, Maria (Mary)

Mary Bourget was born Mary Dumont, in 1906 in the hotel at Old Veg. with mid-wife Mrs. Dennis in attendance.

Her parents were: Henry Dumont who had come to this area in 1902 from Villeneuve where his family pioneered; Henry worked for Jos. Poulin, hauling supplies for his store in Old Vegreville; he met and married in 1904 the second Poulin daughter, Arselia, Father Bernier officiating at the wedding in August at the original church at the old townsite. Henry Dumont took a homestead south of there on the correction-line (site of German church later); about 1909 the family moved to the new townsite and took a small home with a barn in the Frenchtown district; both buildings were added onto; Mr. Dumont conducted a draying business from this site for many years, his sons, Pete (b. 1911) and Charlie (b. 1913) assisted in this business until W.W. II. The youngest son, "Dee" (b. 1916) worked with Tom Casson in his Meat Shop (where Service Meats stands today). The large Dumont home (now owned by L. Tillapaugh, 5449-45 St.) was a happy gathering place for friends and relatives for many years. Henry Dumont died in 1952 at the age of 70; his widow retired to a smaller home on 46 St. and later entered the Auxiliary Hos-



Five generations in the Dumont, Bourget, Anderson, and Crooks Families. Top left to right: Theresa Anderson (Bourget) — husband died April 16, 1977 in Australia. Their daughter Barbara Crooks (Anderson). Bottom, seated: Mary Bourget, Baby Crooks, Mrs. Arselia Dumont. Mrs. Dumont died Sept. 1972, Anderson of a sudden coronary, aged 50 only. About 1970.

pital where she died in 1972 at the age of 91; Charlie and his wife (nee Nellie Richards) live on 54 Ave. and have raised three daughters.

Mary Bourget recalls starting school at five years of age (in order to fill government requirements for seven pupils); she took her first lessons in the old convent building on 43 St. just north of the original St. Martin's church. Daughters of Providence ran a boarding school there and also taught school, music, religion and deportment to youngsters from many isolated families in the diocese. Sister Mary Adelaide was Superior in 1911; two other beloved teachers were the Beaulieu sisters, Mother St. Alain and Mother St. Agnes, from Lameureux, Alberta. Mary remembers that farmers often came to their place from as far away as St. Paul de Metis by team, unloading their pigs at Dumont's pens where they were fed to recover from the long trip and then were delivered to the buying station of Green and Cadzow, livestock dealers.

Mary Bourget was married in November, 1924 to George Bourget and they moved to the home which she still owns on 46 St. George Bourget was working

in the Innisfree Hotel for Mr. L'Heureux when he joined the army in 1916 and served overseas until 1918; when he first came to Vegreville he worked for Ed. Guichon in the well-drilling business; in 1926 he started in business for himself doing custom hauling and he continued this trucking until his retirement in 1965.

George Bourget was a very active, lively person and always interested in sports; during the depression years he spearheaded and managed the Frenchtown baseball team which practised on vacant lots between 45 and 46 streets, providing amusement for players and onlookers who would gather on evenings and Sundays after Mass to cheer the team they favored. The team entered tournaments as far north as Duvernay and south to Bruce, travelling by truck or old Model T's and often taking along most of their families for the outing.

Once, in 1925, the Bourgets and Dumonts went to Bruce Stampede where the women took on the job of assistants in the food concession operated by a neighbor, Mr. LaFleur. When they started back to Vegreville late that night they were following another car which was supposed to guide them to the correct route, but at a certain crossroad, the Bourgets missed the hand signal from the preceding car because it was given by a very dark member of the group, a well-known local character who was affectionately known as "Nigger Ben". So the Bourgets ended up that night at Viking instead of Vegreville.

Mary and George Bourget raised a family of three: Theresa, Bernard and Dennis, none of whom reside in this area today. Mary and George were both active in church and community work and in Legion affairs. George was beloved for his annual rendition of "Alouette" at the local "Frenchmen's Ball". He died in June, 1972. Mary's smiling presence is still among us in Veg.

Bradshaw, John, Clara and Family by Clara Bradshaw

In the summer of 1924 my husband John came to the Pouzer flats to put up hay for our stock as we had been either frozen or dried out every year when we lived about 20 miles south of Vermilion. So on December 23rd, 1924, we put all our household goods on two bob-sleighs. We had a load of hay and some oats on another load. The hired man drove the first team and the rest followed. My husband was on horse-back to help keep the cattle and horses following this load of hay. The two children, Cecil and Irene and I, followed in the cutter. We got to Beauvallon late that night. John's brother, Bob, lived near Beauvallon, so we stayed and had Christmas with them. Then early on December 26th we started for our new

home, the Berlinguette place, about 1½ miles from the old Emery Theroux farm. We came over Ben's Lake and it was cold. We kept warm by using two foot warmers and a large fur robe. When we got to the Berlinguette place late that night the two men, with the aid of two coaloil lanterns, soon got the heater going and as we also brought some wood and a little coal, we got the kitchen warm, ate a lunch and slept soundly all night. The horses and cattle were well looked after before John and the man came in to rest. The Berlinguette place had a good barn and well and the hay John put up in the summer had been hauled to the place. He was able to get a big strawstack just across the road near the Vermilion River and the cattle and horses were well taken care of. The house was very nice, but oh, so cold!

Wes Schryer had the Berlinguette half-section rented. He was a trucker, so John helped him put the land in. He gave us in return about 50 acres of this land to put in for wages and Wes paid for his board. Wes had a small bin of barley and every time it rained the water ran on this barley. My husband would shovel it around to keep it from heating. Mr. Schryer gave it to John as it would have spoiled anyway. My



Bradshaw Family — John (father), son Cecil, son Daniel, Clara (mother), daughter Irene, Dec. 1927.

husband planted this grain in the land he was lent and as there wasn't quite enough barley he was able to get a little wheat. Although it was a late spring this time we had the best little crop.

The next year John and Henry Bruce put the Campbell half-section in crop; that was about one mile east of the old Warwick post office. That year it was dry again. We just got six bushels per acre. Then in 1927, John and I put in the Berlinguette place (the half-section), we had a good crop and in October we had our new baby boy, Daniel. With the money from the grain and cattle we bought the Flewell half-section. The buildings were put up before the land was surveyed, so the house was right on the middle of the road and the barn and sheds were on the west quarter near the Vermilion River. John leased a half-section of school land for pasture. I wasn't able to help him in the field that year because of the new baby. We had a big garden, milked six cows and had quite a large flock of hens. That was our grocery money and ready cash. In 1929 we moved onto the west side of the road as it was too dangerous for the children. By this time there were a lot of cars going by; the cars and all traffic had to go around the house to continue up the road.

In the fall of 1928, Cecil and Irene went to the Brush Hill school.

John brushed and broke up all the land that was not yet cultivated and in 1929 we had a beautiful crop and again around the 25th of August it froze. After that for some years we had fair crops. By this time the two older children were through high school and I was able for some years to help John in the field.

In about 1942 we bought the half-section 9-53-14-4; we still had fair crops. On January 15th, 1943 our house burnt; we just got out in our night clothes. Although it was 40 below F, the car started and we went to Carter's in our bare feet and all. We got a cook stove from the Brush Hill Ladies Aid and we put this in the brooder house. I scrubbed and whitewashed it and that was our home for some months. The Brush Hill and Fairwood people gave us a kitchen shower. The Red Cross and some other groups gave us some bedding. We were very thankful to all these kind people. Every morning we would roll our bedding up and put it on a snow drift (there were lots of these) at night we would bring it in and make our beds on the floor. We needed the floor space as the brooder house was small. The bedding was cold but we were glad of any place to sleep. There was a lot of snow that year and by the end of April the Vermilion River overflowed its banks. We knew we would be in trouble if the water rose higher, so John and Cecil moved grain for two days from the lower granaries to the higher spots. I baked two large

batches of bread and churned all the cream we had for butter. I thought at least we would have bread to eat. By this time we couldn't get to Vegreville. Our telephone was burnt in the house fire, so Jake Gafka got one for us and we drove in a fence post and hooked the phone on this post in the yard in case of real trouble. Next morning Fr. Burke phoned to say they had blasted the debris from the river bridge and that we would have more water. John and Cecil were at the river piling up dirt. I ran to the chicken coop to catch the hens and put them in the barn loft (we had about 300). There was water on the floor already. I would catch the hens and pass them to Daniel and he would run to the barn and throw them in the loft. By this time, John and Cecil came, but we were just through. The water came in from the east and west in great waves. When we got to the brooder house it had three feet of water in it. John and Cecil picked up the stove and carried it up the hill where the house used to be, water gushing out of it. The well was under water but there was still a drift of snow in the trees so I filled every tub I could find, for this snow would have to be our drinking water. We kept our horses harnessed day and night with the hay rack ready to move. The threshing caboose was our sleeping quarters now. We had sticks driven into the ground and if the water got to a certain stick that meant to move fast and it came to within a few inches. John and I took turns to watch but we didn't sleep. We lived about 10 days like this. When a large chunk of ice hit a tree it would sound like a gunshot and the tree would float down the river with the ice.

One morning before the flood, John went to feed the cattle (he had several drinking holes in the river to water the cattle, the water coming down the river went into these drinking holes and that made them very big); he found two of his big fat steers had slipped into these holes. John got one by the horn and by holding onto a tree branch got him out, but the other he had to let go as the branch broke. The steer went down the river and was lost. John nearly went down also. We had 63 cattle ready for market but had to turn them out in the field as there was no way to get feed to them and no way to get them to market. We had another flood in 1948 but we were ready for this one. The neighbor boy could come right to the kitchen step in his motor boat! The pigs were turned out with the cattle and we fed the chickens on horseback. We didn't even have time to catch a cold.

In 1941 we had a big crop again. My Dad had a sale as he and Mother were retiring. He had said to Mother that if the tractor and separator didn't bring a certain price he was going to give them to John. It didn't bring what he wanted, so he told John to come and take it, but John said, "No", that was too much

as he had given me twelve head of red poll heifers and a Holstein cow when we were married. But one evening here came the outfit! That really was a big help; no more looking and waiting for a threshing outfit. Irene had taken a business course at McTavish and had got a job at the Treasury Branch in Edmonton. Cecil was through high school also; he was busy playing ball and hockey and helping on the farm. He tried to join the Air Force but was turned down because of his eyes. In the summer of 1944 when John was doing summerfallow on the north half near Ben's Lake he got so ill he couldn't turn his head to watch the plow as his throat had a large lump. He went to all the doctors in town but they couldn't help him. He went to Edmonton the end of October and made an appointment. The night before he went to the hospital, he said, "Clara, will you come with me to see Jack Steinbach, he may not be here when I come back"? Jack was very sick also. John was in terrible pain but he kept his appointment and on Friday, November 3rd, 1944, the doctor phoned to say he had gone. Now I was left to carry on alone with my three children.

Irene quit her job at the bank to come home. Daniel was taking Grade Eleven in Vegreville; he had just turned seventeen, but I had to have him at home. I made up my mind to carry on as John would have

done. Irene did the housework, and the boys and I were outside. In 1946 Irene got married, so again I had the extra work. Then about 1950 Daniel bought a second-hand pull-type combine; that really was the most helpful machine. With a second-hand twin-power tractor, threshing and farming was a pleasure.

In 1952 Daniel got married; I rented my farm to him and went to work at the hospital. In the fall of 1953 Cecil had the school bus, a lot of cattle and hogs and the half-section, so I came back to help him take his crop off and stayed with him for the winter. Daniel took care of my cattle for two winters; his wife didn't like the farm so she got a job in town and soon he sold his stock and went to town also but he kept his machinery and farmed my land and his quarter-section. When Dan went to town I went to live on the place. I bought a baler and Dan lent me his tractor, so I baled my straw and feed. I kept 21 head of cows. Pumping water was a heavy job. Dan by now had a bigger combine and tractor. He and his hired man brought in my bales and the wood. I cooked for them when they were on the farm. I had the coal trucked in and fuel oil for the heater. My car was good, so I was able to get to town for groceries and church. In February, 1956, Cecil got married. That helped some as I used to go to see about his chores when he was away playing hockey or ball. I always liked to take him a cake and do his washing. That spring we had another flood. A few years after Cecil married, Dan sold his machines; I sold my cattle but stayed on the farm over 19 years alone.

I loved the farm. It was so peaceful with just the wild animals and birds. You would have to live there to understand. In October, 1971, I bought a house in Vegreville but I often go out to the farm.

Bremner, Andrew and Edith

Andrew Bremner, a great grandson of Alexander Bremner, who had immigrated to the Winnipeg area from Scotland with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1812, and his wife Edith (nee Casselman), whose parents had moved into Southern Ontario from the United States following the American Revolution, arrived in Vegreville in 1910 with their three daughters Theresa, Wilhelmina and Agnes. One son Ben had homesteaded in Stretton in 1905 and the oldest daughter Matilda had married Jim Finlin and farmed near Kitscoty. Prior to moving to Vegreville, Andrew had travelled through Western Canada from Winnipeg to Edmonton and had worked in many capacities such as a fur trader, farmer, and transporter of goods. During his years in Vegreville he was section foreman on the southern branch of the C.N.R. and worked there until his retirement. Following his retirement he and his wife continued to live in



The flood at Vegreville, 1949.



Vegreville flood, 1943.



Andrew and Edith Bremner about 1945.



Trissie (Bremner) and Walter Adams, 1957.

Vegreville and surrounding area. Andrew passed away in 1948 and his wife Edith in 1947 and were both interred in the Vegreville cemetery.

Theresa, Willie and Agnes attended Normal School at Camrose. Theresa and Agnes taught for a short while after their graduation. Theresa taught at Leachville and Agnes at Ryan. Theresa stopped teaching following her marriage to Walter Adams and Agnes ended her teaching career following her marriage to Roy Cole. Wilhelmina pursued teaching for some forty years in Vegreville and surrounding district. In 1922 she married Willis Tierney and presently resides in the Vegreville Nursing Home. Theresa passed away at Vegreville in 1973 and Agnes resides with her husband in the Lions' Home in Vegreville.

Brennan, Jim and Clara

Jim Brennan was born at Carberry, Manitoba, July 6, 1885.

Clara Grantham was born at Gladstone, Manitoba, February 8, 1888.

Clara and Jim Brennan were married August 11, 1909, in Gladstone, Manitoba.

They settled on a homestead at Edrans and for nine years maintained a home for their family. In 1918 they moved to Vegreville where some of their relations had preceded them. Here, Jim acquired a livery stable which he operated until 1921. At this time he sold out and went back to farming again, this time up near Ashmont. In 1928 the Brennans returned to Vegreville and resumed farming. In 1955 they sold their farm and moved to Edmonton.

Jim and Clara had one daughter and four sons:

Edna and Les Hopkins: Doreen, Jim.

Len and Marg Brennan: Beverly, Brian.



Left to right: Jim and Clara Brennan and family. Upper left is Dora Holloway, formerly of Hairy Hill, about 1930.



Brennan boys, (l. to r.) — Gordon, Leonard, George and Hargrave, 1930.

Har and Florence Brennan: Carol, Elaine, Linda, Joe.

Geordie and Daphne Brennan: Garth, Garry.

Gordon and Betty Brennan: Darlene, Valerie, Terry.

Breton, Thomas and Lorraine by Lorraine (Irvine) Breton

I was born in Calgary, Alberta, and came to Vegreville with my parents May and Bob Irvine. I can remember many happy occasions on the Kitto farm. My Grandmother, Mamie Kitto and my Mother, May Irvine, used to take me out in the huge garden to help, but I can still recall those lovely strawberries tasting so good, that I am sure I didn't pull too many weeds!!

I also recall the harvest times — very good times, but lots of hard work involved. Mother and my Grandmother would be cooking for hours for dinner, and they just seemed to get the dishes cleaned up and start preparing for supper. I am sure there used to be nine or ten pies in the oven all the time. One thing I recall is having "Chicken Pox" and just after I was over them, I went to our chicken house to put the quarantine sign on the door and a rooster chased me all the way back to the house. Mother said she looked out the window and all she could see was me running and crying saying, "Those bad chickens won't let me put a sign on their door".

I had a Shetland Pony given to me by Dad's hired man. I called him "Tiny". He used to let me ride him one mile down the road and then throw me off; as a result, he would always arrive home before me.

I attended school in Vegreville. When I completed school, I started working as a Secretary with



Kittos — Front (l. to r.) — Glenna with cousin May. Middle row (l. to r.) — Mamie (mother), Ethel (aunt), Stewart (father). Back — Morc (uncle) — at his residence, 1929.

Central Wholesale, under the supervision of Mr. Olyan.

I was active in the United Church Choir, C.G.I.T., Girl Guides, and Rangers. Also enjoyed Figure Skating during my teens. I then entered the banking career, and worked in the Treasury Branch in Vegreville for a few years, and was then transferred to a Branch in Edmonton. 1955 — I was married to Thomas A. Breton, in the Vegreville United Church, and we returned to Edmonton to live as we were both employed there. 1969 — Tom and I bought an acreage in the Leduc area. In 1970, we were blessed with a son, whom we named Garth, and in 1972, we again were blessed with a daughter whom we named Heather (My Dad's favorite name, being Scottish).

After Mother's passing in 1973, our ties with Edmonton seemed to diminish and today we are living on our acreage and enjoying "Country Living". Tom is working with an oil company in Nisku. Our children, Garth nine years old and in grade four, and Heather, seven years old and in grade two, are very busy. Both are involved in Cubs, Brownies, Church Groups, and skating.

I am employed with the R.C.M.P. in Leduc, and find that with all the activities of a family, life is very hectic, but I sure wouldn't want it any other way.



Stewart Kitto's first shack on his homestead in Park Grove area, 1901. Stewart's sister, Mabel Kitto, was out from Eastern Canada for a visit.

Briggs, Andrew

The Briggs family moved to Lavoy area in 1905 from Nebraska, father Andrew, Mother Jane Ann, and children Jennie, Priscilla, Rachel, and Seth. Another child Edith was born in Canada. They came via rail to Edmonton, then by oxen and wagon to their homestead, east half of 11-52-13. They lived with McCutcheons until their own house was built — a log home which stood on the north-east corner of their land for many years. Priscilla became a school teacher and served in that capacity for decades at various points in Alberta, including Lavoy Elementary before retirement. Her first husband was Mr. McNutt; they had one son, Hazen, who now lives in Burnaby. Widowed, Priscilla later married C. W. Brinton, a pioneering friend. She died in 1976.

Seth Briggs remained a bachelor on the family farm for many years. He married Nettie and they had a family; Joyce, who died in an accident in 1972. Twins Andy, now farming at Mundare with wife and new son, Seth and Alice Beaumont of Toronto; Verna Fisk of Edmonton.

Seth died in 1955 and the Briggs moved to Vegreville where the children took their schooling. The Briggs farm was sold to Dave Durie. Nettie still lives in town where she keeps busy with day-care for the Henderson youngsters.

Brimacombe, Ed and Betty by Betty Brimacombe

In October of 1967 Ed was appointed Driver Examiner in charge of the Vegreville Office. I accompanied Ed from Calgary at that time to look for a house. Through a friend we learned that the Lorne Cunningham home in the Park Grove District was for

rent. Lorne had suffered a heart attack and Dorothy had moved to Edmonton to be near him. During October, Ed boarded with John and Irene Ziegler in town.

On November 1, Pat, Bruce and I moved from Calgary to the Cunningham home in the Park Grove District. We remained there until June of 1970 when we purchased the John Ziegler farm home and 20 acres.

Prior to three years in Calgary, we lived in Vermilion where Ed and I were born, educated and married. Our two children, Pat and Bruce, were born there too.

I attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1947-48 and met several members of Park Grove there — Claire, Gordon and Genevieve Ziegler, who were also attending V.S.A. that year.

Pat and Bruce attended school here. Bruce in Grade 1 at Queen Elizabeth and Pat in Grade 6 at Peter Svarich. Bruce is at present in Grade 11 at Vegreville Composite High. Pat finished her high school at the Composite High and went on to N.A.I.T. She graduated in 1976 as a Health Records Administrator and was employed at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary as a Medical Records Librarian for a year. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Mary Duke from St. Joseph's Hospital here in Vegreville, Pat took over as Health Record Librarian in September, 1977. She is at present here in that capacity.

Ed is an active member of the United Church and is on the Board of Session. I sing in the Senior Choir and am a U.C.W. member.

On September 20, 1977 Ed and I celebrated our 25th Anniversary. A number of the Park Grove Community gathered at our home for a party and to wish us well. Prior to this we fulfilled a lifelong wish and celebrated by flying to England for a five-week holiday.

We have been very happy here and feel fortunate to have settled in such a friendly community where we have many good friends and wonderful neighbors.

Brinton, Caleb

Caleb Brinton's ancestors had migrated to Pennsylvania in the 18th century; in the 1800's they moved west to farm near Lincoln, Nebraska. A neighbor, T. A. Blackburn, had gone to Alberta, bought land, and encouraged others to get cheap land there. So Caleb, having six sons, went looking in 1910 and purchased one-quarter section (NW10-52-14) of improved land at sixteen dollars per acre, and one section of raw prairie (15-52-14) from George Robertson. This crest of land about three miles east of the fast-growing little town of Vegreville is still known as "Brinton's Hill".

In 1911, Caleb moved north with his wife Lorena, daughter Margaret, and sons Charlie, Elwood, Wilson, and Bob. Two older sons remained in the States,

although Wendell came to this area briefly and then returned to farming in Nebraska. The trip was difficult for the boys: Charlie, eighteen; and Elwood, sixteen; had to ride in the two box-cars loaded with household effects, machinery, and animals—mostly



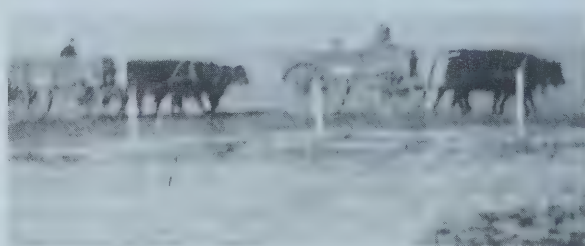
Brinton gathering, 1932, when grandparents returned from California to visit. At left side, standing: Elwood and Ida Brinton and their children Bill, Elinor, Helen, Elwood, Jr., and baby Joan on lap of grandmother Lorena Brinton, seated. At right side, standing: Margaret and Charlie Brinton and their children George, Betty, Hazel, Doreen, and the youngest, Don, on lap of grandfather Caleb Brinton, seated.



How a young man went courting in 1915. "Jane" and Charlie Brinton.



At Vegreville's first summer resort, Sickman Lake, 1915. Standing back, Mrs. Caleb (Lorena) Brinton. Front: (l. to r.) — Mrs. J. S. Reid, "Doc" Cobber, Margaret Brinton, Isabelle Smith, Caleb (known as "Will") Brinton, last lady unknown.



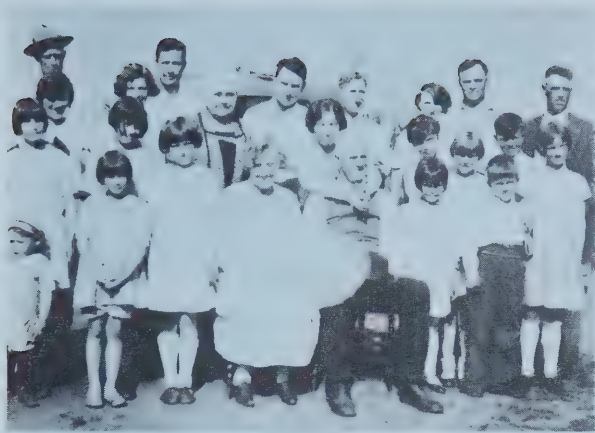
Ox teams hauling freight by Brinton's Hill, 1912.



Charlie Brinton at wheel of Rumely, about 1916. Tom Kelly, standing. St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville, can be seen in left background.



The Brintons. About 1930.



Brintons. 1930's.

mules (a foot-and-mouth epidemic prevented importation of cattle). Their route was via Winnipeg on the Chicago North-Western; then a switch to the Canadian Northern to Vegreville. The journey took two weeks due to such holdups as a flat wheel on one of their box-cars, and the examination of their animals at the border, where one of the mules acted up so much that he never did get tested or injected.

Meanwhile, the rest of the family had gone ahead by passenger car and stayed the first night at the Alberta Hotel. They then moved out to the cottage on the "Robertson" quarter. This was a cosy farmstead and it even had a telephone — the first one in that rural area! Although nice, the house was small and soon another larger house was built on the section across the road. One of the carpenters was Pete McNee and the Brinton boys did the rough work. This house and the original barn, both improved, still stand on the farmsite today.

The Brintons were a lively family and soon became involved in all kinds of community affairs. For many years they held picnics in their pasture north of the CN tracks, often an occasion for the ex-Americans to celebrate July 4th. Caleb, an upright but elderly man, drove his horse and buggy to town almost daily. His wife was active in the popular movement of the day — The Women's Christian Temperance Union. The young people liked music, dancing, sleigh-rides and ball games. Bob joined the newly organized Scouts. Charlie and Elwood became enamored with steam engines and operated threshing outfits around the district for some years. A creamery business venture in town flopped, it is said, because the Brinton boys gave away too much free ice cream to their many friends. Full of mischief, Brinton boys complained they were always caught in pranks because they were all six-footers.

In 1924, Caleb and Lorena, with sons Wilson and Bob, retired to California. They sold the section to

Herb Dean; who lived there with his wife May and their children, Jennie and Archie, during the Depression years. Later the place was taken over by Charles Brinton, then by John Maciborski. Now, it is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Trollope (nee Zenia Hyduk) whose parents have helped them turn the old farm into a showplace.

Elwood Brinton married Ida Wiggins of Nebraska in 1919 and they lived in that area for some years. They then moved to the Barrhead district. Elwood died in 1940 and was survived by his wife and children: Helen Lodge, Edmonton; Elinor Wagner, Nova Scotia; Bill, Barrhead; Elwood Jr., Saskatoon; Joan Desrosiers, Barrhead.

Lorena Brinton died in California in 1943; Caleb died there too, in 1946, aged 95.

Brinton, Charles

Charles Wilmot Brinton was born March 19, 1892 in their farmhouse seven miles from Lincoln, Nebraska. He came to this area in the spring of 1911, where he farmed with his father and brothers until his marriage to Margaret Callahan in 1917. They homesteaded on the Brinton ridge, SW 10-52-14. There, in a little shack, they raised a family of five through the Depression years. Hard times were eased by a few good crops and by the kindness of relatives and friends. Extra food, clothes, and even toys were passed from one family to another in those pioneer days. For example, the teacher's cast-off dresses might face her next term on the skinny frames of some of her teen-aged students. Because the Brintons had one of the first radios in the area (made by a talented relative — Johnny Molitar), there was often a neighborhood get-together to listen to a favorite program of old-time music from CFCN Calgary. Great excitement prevailed when occasionally, by freak reception, a program came through from KSL



Reunion of Pioneer Families at Brinton's, Christmas, 1940. Back (l. to r.) — Capt. J. H. Kennedy, Ada (Moore) Callahan, Margaret (Callahan) Brinton, Floyd Shaw, Nellie (McAreavy) Walker, Gwen (Flack) Thomas. Front (l. to r.) — Charlie Brinton, Bertha (Jennings) Kennedy, Irene (Kennedy) Shaw.



Local son, Don Brinton, centre front, was part of the hilarious "Noon Show", CFRN/TV on pioneer television about 1955.

Salt Lake City! Many district parties were enlivened by the music of the McAreavys and the Johnsons; and perhaps Archie Steele, with the odd jug of choke-cherry wine on the side. Well-to-do farmers drove Model T's or Model A's in the summer; and in the

winter, when roads were impassable, the batteries were taken from the vehicles and used to power radios.

The Brinton family fondly remember the charity of Dr. Couillard who tended their illnesses with little remuneration. Another great helper was Mary Kill-ick (Kraychy) who came as a hired girl and remained as a friendly part of the community for years. Close neighbors included: Balaams, Volks, Junkers, George Deans, Walkers ("Pop", Stan, and Bosco), Jack Williams, Reimers, McCartys, Umphreys, Hoyteniuks, Chernesksys and Herb Deans. A favorite pastime of youngsters, in the spring, was to collect in the open cattle-range west of Charlie's farm and drown out gophers; the tails being saved for bounty (the smelly trophies had to be counted and recorded by the unlucky teacher later). Horseback riding and racing was another diversion of summer; Brinton's old "Jack" and Landry's crippled "Lark" were sure losers, both having been ridden too hard by too many careless schoolchildren.

Charlie, like his father before him, was for many years a member of the board of Ridgemark School No. 3116 (SW 3-52-14) where his children took their



One way to have fun on a Sunday afternoon in the Depression days, 1937. (l. to r.) — Irene Green, John McCarty, Betty Brinton, Geo. Schamahorn, Jo McCarty, Geo. Brinton in the latter's Model T purchased from Aunt Ada Callahan for \$25.

elementary schooling. In 1934, the family moved to the original Brinton farm on Highway 16. This move was partly to enable the children to attend high school and also to expand farming operations which then comprised a section and a quarter. With a few good crops and better prices life became easier; a rubber-tired tractor was purchased in 1937 (first in the area!) from Mike Zenko of Massey-Harris; the children were educated; and Charlie and Margaret began curling and other town activities. After a short but full life involved with family, church, hospital work, and community affairs, Margaret died in 1949, Charlie stayed on the farm, semi-retired, and in 1956 married Priscilla Briggs McNutt who taught school at Lavoy for a few years until her retirement. They left the farm then, and eventually moved to Vancouver to live with Priscilla's son. Ill health of both Charlie and Priscilla predicated Charlie's move to the Nursing Home in Vegreville where he has lived since, enjoying the many visitors who call to chat or play cribbage.

Charlie was active in the Vegreville Elks' Band, playing the bass drum for years. He helped start a

Calf Club (now 4-H); he held many offices in B.P.O.E. and was made a Life Member in 1963. He served on the Exhibition Board, mainly organizing parades, and was awarded Honorary Membership in 1961. Charlie was also President of Highlow Uniform from 1948 to 1951.

Charlie's children include: George, who was drowned while mining at Yellowknife in 1940; Betty, now Mrs. John Hantiuk of Vegreville; Hazel, married to Dewie Tucker who died in 1967, is now married to Reg Irving, Edmonton; Doreen, trained in local General Hospital, married Bernie Forbes, both now retired in Westlock; and Donald, attended University of Alberta, involved with CFRN-TV since its inception, married Lois Hancock and moved to Saskatoon then later to Winnipeg where Don is owner-manager of Station CKND-TV.

Brown, George by Naomi (Brown) Steele

George Brown, one of Vegreville's old-timers, was born in Pittsfield, Illinois, in 1862. He worked on the railroad there, then moved to Kansas where he



19th Alberta dragoons, 1917. Back row (l. to r.) — George Brown, Thomas Cannon, C. F. Lang, Dick Rennie, Silas Richardson, Arthur Wise. Middle row (l. to r.) — John Leach, E. Luxton, A. Odell, Pat Dobbins, Roy Trimble, John Trimble, J. D. Worth. Front row (l. to r.) — J. Waddell, unknown, E. Mylrea, W. G. Ross, A. W. Fraser, J. S. Reid. Front (seated) — Ormy Trimble, Mr. Mitchell, Mark Kitto.



Father of Naomi Steele, George Brown, at the wheels, Levi Brown, Wesley Spears holding lines, other two men unknown — doing road work old-fashioned way. 1930's.

married Grave McIntyre. They farmed south of Abeline for a few years, then moved to Canada in 1901 with a family of four: Lucille, Levi, Marie and Hattie. They lived in Edmonton for a while where George worked for a coal company selling coal for \$4.00 a ton and also put a crop in at St. Albert (and was hailed out!).

He then moved to Vegreville and took a homestead three miles north-east of Vegreville, where three more children were born: Ruth, Naomi and Mildred. He helped move Dad Clement's store from Old Vegreville to the new townsite. He resided on that farm most of his life, except for a few years when he rented the Wass Farm and the Dave Kennedy farm. He also used to do much road work in the old days. His son Levi was drowned at Sick Man Lake in 1914. Charlie and Elwood Brinton helped find Levi's body that day.

George worked at Dad Clement's Store for a time. Mr. Brown wanted to come to Canada when he was a young man but the Louis Riel Rebellion was on so he decided (it was the best part of valour) not to come out.

George retired and lived in Vegreville until his passing in 1951.

Bruce, William by Grace (Bruce) Appleby

William David Bruce was born in 1883 at Barrie, Muskoka County, Ontario, the seventh in a family of eleven children.

He drove a team on railroad construction in the summer, and skidded logs in Ontario lumber camps in the winter. Later he successfully turned to prospecting in Northern Ontario. After marrying a school teacher, Annie Fitzmaurice of Bracebridge, Ontario, in 1912, they came west to Edmonton. With horses he had shipped in from the East, he hauled gravel for construction in Edmonton. He built two houses side by side on 9853-90 Avenue, overlooking the



Bruce Family, 1944. Back row (l. to r.) — Frank, Leo, Bob, Evelyn. Front row — Mrs. Bruce, Aunt Fannie, Grace, Mr. Bruce. Genevieve is missing.

Saskatchewan River. While there, Wm. Francis ("Frank") was born.

He traded one of the houses to a Mr. Turner for section 5, township 50, range 14, west of the fourth meridian, located nine miles north of Bruce and sixteen miles south of Vegreville. A small house was pulled onto the south end of the section, but the building site was changed to the highest elevation on the north side, on a blind road which he did not realize at the time. Later he sold a strip of land for three dollars to the municipality for a roadway, got the use of municipal machinery, and built the mile of grade between sections 5 and 8. In following years he bought section 3, the east half of section 6, and the NW quarter of section 4. For many years he rented section 8 from the Hudson Bay for pasture.

In 1913 two big barns, still in use, were built. One was the horse stable, the other a cow barn and machine shed. The house was small, and to accommodate hired men, a shack was built also. It was in this first house that Grace, Leo, Bob and Genevieve were born. In 1924 the brick house was built and some years later Evelyn was born.

The area was almost treeless due to prairie fires which had swept the country. A puff of smoke seen on the horizon was the signal for all settlers to unhitch from any machinery, rush home to hitch onto a stoneboat always sitting ready, loaded with a large wooden barrel of water and gunny sacks, then gallop

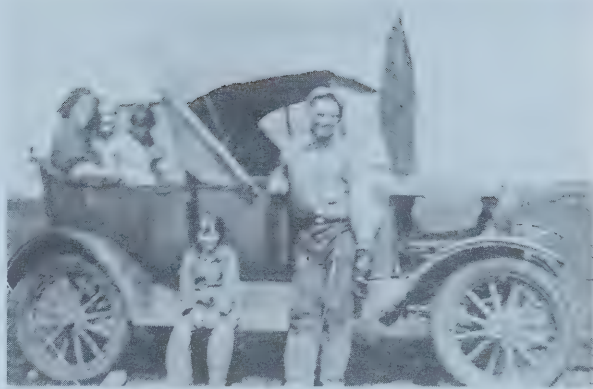
to put out the fire before it spread too far. If it was burning out of control, they sped on to back-fire, that is, they lit another fire ahead of the blaze which could be controlled, so when the big fire reached it, there was nothing left to burn. Because of prairie fires, all farmsteads, haystacks, granaries, etc. had furrows ploughed around them called "fire guards."

In the fall there were "round-ups" in each municipality. Each farmer was to confine his own livestock. Any horses or cattle still at large by November were herded to the pound where the rider got a dollar a head for bringing them in. These animals were kept in the pound for ten days to give anyone with missing stock a chance to claim them, and pay the pound fees. After that, any remaining animals were branded with the pound brand, and an auction was held. One could get almost any animal for two dollars. A mare and a colt both often sold for that price.

On arriving at the farm, Bill and Annie Bruce found that they had to go to Vegreville to get to Church. The sixteen-mile drive over prairie trails was travelled as long as the weather permitted, and sometimes when it was questionable. They drove in a buggy in the summer and a cutter in the winter until 1918 when the first car, a Maxwell, was used in the summer.

To attend midnight mass at Christmas, the family, at four in the afternoon, piled into the sleigh box where the floor had been lined with straw and foot warmers. They covered with fur robes and started out for St. Martin's Church. Before the trip was over, most had gotten out to run behind for awhile to break the monotony, and to keep warm. Mr. Bruce drove the family to church on the east side of Vegreville. After confessions all went uptown and the horses were put in the livery stable. They were able to shop until 11:30 or 12:00 on Christmas Eve since the stores were open. Of course they had to walk back to church for midnight mass. There were warm memories of stopping off at Stanton's or Hank Bender's enroute. Midnight mass was indeed a beautiful and solemn occasion. It was usually around 4:00 a.m. by the time the Bruces arrived home. Needless to say, the lunch they enjoyed then tasted like "the bread of angels."

Threshing was a big event. In the days of the steam engine, Mrs. Bruce, with the help of a neighbor or a hired girl, fed twenty to twenty-four men, breakfast, dinner, and supper. Pies, cakes and cookies were baked ahead of time. It was indeed unfortunate when the good weather broke, for threshing or not, many of the crew had to be fed until threshing resumed. Then the baking spree had to take place all over again. For a number of years, Otto Lund from Bruce was one of the engineers of the steamer which moved at a snail's pace, cutting fences



Frank Bruce working on his first car, an early Ford. Beside him is his sister Genevieve, and in the back seat are his sister Grace, a friend, and his sister Evelyn, about 1932.

to cross fields to save time. Great was the joy when the steamer and the separator were lined up all ready to go, and Otto let one of the children blow the whistle. By this time bundle racks were loaded, spike pitchers lined up, grain wagons in position, all ready for that long belt to whirl the machine into action. In spite of all the hustle, some of the crew played tricks on unwary fellow workers. The days of the steamer were over in the mid-1920's.

Mrs. Bruce travelled east in 1923 to visit her family in Muskoka, and her sister Frances Fitzmaurice came back with her. She became a second mother to the Bruce children, and "Aunt Fannie" to the neighbors until her death in 1951.

The brick house was built in 1924, and is still in use. It saw many good times when there were dances and parties and get-togethers. The third generation is now living in it.

Mr. Bruce was active in community affairs. He was a member of the Bruce Stampede Association, and missed one stampede in a period of 59 years. He was also a member of the Vegreville Exhibition Association for many years. He served as a councillor of the M.D. of Beaver. He was an active member of the United Farmers of Alberta. He was a trustee for the Radio S.D. and also a member of the Vegreville Hospital Board for some time. For many years he served on the church board of St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church in Vegreville. He was a local organizer for the Social Credit Party. Mr. Bruce retired to Vegreville in 1960 taking with him his ready wit, cheerful philosophy of life, and great love for children. He kept his driver's license until he died in 1974.

Mrs. Bruce, in spite of her ill health, raised six children, and her greatest pleasure was having her family home again until her death in 1954.

Frank and Grace went to school at Mayflower

until Radio was built, then transferred there. Due to Mrs. Bruce's ill health, they stayed in the Vegreville convent to go to school, for awhile in grade I and again in grade IV. At that time there were many boarders there. Boys up to the age of twelve were accepted. Some were there because no school was available at home.

The Bruce children, Frank, Grace, Leo, Bob, Genevieve and Evelyn got their public schooling at Radio.

Frank attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture for two years. He took over a Rawleigh dealership in the Edson area where he met and married Marguerite Bellack. They moved to Edmonton where Frank worked for the American Armed Forces, then for the Income Tax Branch until retiring in 1974.

Grace returned to the Vegreville Convent for high school, then attended Camrose Normal School. After teaching for some time she married Bert Appleby. They farmed near Holden for fourteen years, then moved into town where Grace taught until she retired in June 1979. They have four children: Anne (Mrs. Floyd Taylor); Bruce married Mary Anne Krysanowski; Colleen (Mrs. Harvey Buksa); and Douglas married Debbie Koetke.

Leo farmed with Mr. Bruce until he joined the armed forces. After the war he farmed in the Bruce district, and worked in lumber camps in winter until he went to New Zealand. On his return to Canada, he moved to Fort St. John, B.C. and worked as a lumber jack until his death in 1972.

Bob bought land from his dad and farmed with

him for many years. He married Hazel Teske, and they lived in the brick house. They retired to Camrose in 1979. They have six children: Barry who took over the home place where Bob left off, he married Anita Boris; Connie (Mrs. Dwayne Marcincoski); Kathie (Mrs. Brian Pozerniuk); Heather; Sharon and Jaqueline.

Genevieve then attended F.C.J. Convent in Edmonton for high school, went to the University of Alberta, and then taught high school. She married Joseph Kallal. They ranch near Vimy and have six children: David married Jean St. Arnault; Anne (Mrs. Jim Monpetit); Bruce married Judy Baker; Michael; Mary and Grace.

Evelyn attended F.C.J. Convent in Edmonton for high school. She married Herman Otto, bought land and they farmed in the Bruce district. They have four children: Mary Anne, Maurice, Eileen and Patricia.

Bushko, Stefan and Anna by Jeanette (Kitz) Bushko

Steve Bushko, the eldest son of Harry Bushko and Felicia Zuk, came to Canada from Starawo, Ukraine, in 1901, at the age of ten. As was the custom in those days, for a period of time they lived with friends who were already established in Canada. However, before very long the Bushko family acquired their own quarter-section of land and settled on it. The Zuk family did the same, in the same area.

When grandfather Zuk died he left his land to his oldest grandson, Steve Bushko. On February 14, 1913, Steve married Anna Steblyk. Soon after they built a new house and the young couple began their farming operations. It was here that their six children were born: Harry, William, Helen, Olha and Elsie (twins) and Vera.

In 1920, Steve's younger brother, Michael, married his wife's younger sister Maria. Although for a few years this young couple lived with Mike's parents, before long they purchased land one-half mile from Steve's. The two couples helped each other with work on their respective farms. Their children grew up together, and to this day look upon each other as brothers and sisters rather than cousins.

Steve and his wife played an important role in establishing the New Kiew Church and supported it in all the years they lived in that district.

Much later, as the family was growing up, they bought more land across the road and built a much more modern home. The family lived here until the children grew up and left home. A few years later Steve sold the land and he and Anna lived in Edmonton for a few years. Then they returned to Vegreville, bought a home, and lived here until their death — Steve in 1964 and Anna in 1968.



Four generations of Mr. William Bruce's family. Left to right: Great-Grandson David, Grandson Bruce Appleby, daughter Grace Appleby holding Great-Grandson Dale, and William Bruce, 1972.



Steve and Anna Bushko Family. Standing from left to right — Harry Bushko, Bill McKilligan, Vera Bushko, Bill Bushko, Jeanette Bushko, Pat Flood, Joe Sokolosky. Sitting from left to right — Anne Bushko, Elsie McKilligan holding little Carey McKilligan, Mother Anna Bushko, Father Steve Bushko, Olha Flood holding little Leslie Flood, Helen Sokolosky. Sitting on the ground — Cecile Bushko, Victoria Bushko, Sheila Flood. 1947.

Their oldest son, Harry, got his schooling in New Kiew, Mundare, Vegreville, and St. Joseph's College in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. When he returned from Yorkton he decided that farming was for him. He married Anne Yaremicio and they settled on a farm in the Lavoy District. Here their two girls, Victoria and Cecile, were born. Several years later they rented their land and moved to Lavoy, where Harry became a grain buyer. Years later, for health reasons, Harry had to give up the grain buying business. He then moved to Vegreville and took on the job of caretaker at St. Mary's School. He held that job until his death in 1972. Harry was active in the church and was a member of the Knights of Columbus while he lived in Vegreville. His two girls live in Edmonton.

Son Bill, after completing his High School in Vegreville, went on to Camrose Normal School. He started his teaching career in his home school, New Kiew. From there he moved on to two-room Miroslawna School, north of Innisfree. He and John Elkow taught there for four years, and lived in the teacherage where they became expert cooks and housekeepers, or so they told their wives in later years.

In July of 1942, Bill married Jeanette Kitz from Innisfree. In December of the same year he joined the armed forces and a year later went overseas.

He returned home in 1945 and his first teaching job was back at New Kiew. This was filling in from Christmas till the end of June, for a teacher that resigned. The next term Bill was offered the position of Principal at Buffalo Coulee School. He and Jeanette moved into the teacherage beside the school, and remained there for the next nine years. It was a wonderful district and they made many lasting friendships there.

In 1956, they moved to Vegreville, and Bill became Principal of St. Martin's School. He held that position at the time of his death, January 1, 1975.

During his lifetime Bill devoted a lot of his time to extra curricular work in school and in the community. He was Secretary of Holy Trinity Church for a few years, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus for one year, Secretary of the Elks, President of the Local Alberta Teachers Association, Chairman of the Vegreville Library Trustees Association.

The third child in the Bushko family was Helen. She married Joe Sokolosky and lived in Vegreville all

their married life. She was a member of the Order of the Royal Purple. Helen was never too well and in later years spent a lot of time in hospitals. She died in May of 1967.

The twins, Olha and Elsie both worked in Fort William (now Thunder Bay) during the war years. They both married while living there, Olha to Richard "Pat" Flood and Elsie to William McKilligan. After the war the two couples moved to Edmonton. Olha and Pat had four children. Pat died in 1977. Olha still lives in Edmonton. Elsie and Bill had two girls. Bill died in 1964. After his death Elsie went to work for the Edmonton City Telephones and was still with them at the time of her death in 1978.

Vera, the youngest of the clan, taught school at Zaporozhe, Brush Hill and Mannville. Later she worked for the C. N. R. in Edmonton. She married Richard Fowler and they make their home in St. Albert, where Richard has a law office. They had six children, three boys and three girls. In the spring of 1979 their oldest son Richard was accidentally killed, on the job, with the City of Edmonton.

Cairns, James A. and Family by Dorothy Cairns

Jim and Dorothy Cairns moved to Vegreville from Kelowna in 1952, with their two children, Charles and Meryl. Jim's dad, Gordon Cairns, had invented the sawdust burner for the stoves, heaters and furnaces they built in their business, but gas was the coming thing so they sold out in Kelowna.

Jim was very interested in power and started in the warehouse for Canadian Utilities, a one-man position at the time and he really learned as the company was building lines to about one thousand farms each year at that time, from Cold Lake to Highway 14, south, and east to Lloydminster. He soon moved into the Rural Office as a Senior Clerk and on retirement just over 20 years later the Rural Inspector for the district. Jim was a member of the Lions Club all those years and President in 1965 to 1966; he was also a Masonic member and Worshiped Master in 1969; a member of the Scottish Rite and a member of Eastern Star the last few years in Vegreville. He was a member of the Canadian Legion and Building Treasurer at the time of the building addition. In his early years in Vegreville, he led the "Tyros" for the United Church and formed a "Sparky" group of children, sponsored by the firemen.

Jim and Dorothy both enjoyed curling and Jim was on the winning team in 1965 in the Canadian Legion Provincial Playdowns. Jim also enjoyed golf, especially the Tournaments and even went into the net for a time for the first Old Timers' Hockey team in Vegreville.

Dorothy was busy teaching in Teen Church the first ten years. She also worked hard in U.C.W. and was Unit President as well as General President over the years. She also served on the Christian Education Committee and became vice-president. She was a member of Joan of Arc Chapter Eastern Star and Worthy Matron in 1971.

Two more children were born in Vegreville — Diane and Margaret. When they came of school age, Dorothy worked as an accountant for Ray and Donald Mazankowski in their new business venture "Raydon Motors". Prior to this, she contributed to the family income by keeping books for two subcontractors for the Power Company and for Buckland's Frozen Food Centre, in her home.

While at Raydons' she was approached by a parent interested in starting a school for the mentally handicapped as they required a qualified teacher. Having taught primary school in the Okanagan, Dorothy realized the need and started teaching the class of six the fall of 1960. This class soon grew to 25. Retirement the fall of 1972 wasn't easy for Dorothy. She missed the children and her work. She went back to accounting for the John Deere business in Vegreville. She was honored by the Alberta Teachers' Association for the Mentally Handicapped and presented with a pin for being one of the early presidents.

When Charles and Meryl became teenagers, Dorothy saw the need of a Teen Club, so along with Doug Campbell, Judy Mast, Rosemary Edmunds and a few interested Senior High pupils, a "club" was soon underway. Platter parties were the main entertainment and they were supervised by the parents.

Charles graduated from High School in Vegreville and went on as an appraiser for North American Mortgage in Edmonton, spending his evenings at the University of Alberta taking business management. He became the youngest appraiser ever to be Secretary of the Appraiser and Council of Alberta. He married Renie Lesiuk, a former classmate in Vegreville and who is a legal stenographer in Edmonton at this time. To be promoted, Charles was asked to go East, but he and Renie decided to try the West and perhaps get on their own which they did after a few years in Vancouver with Bell Irving, Kincaid and finally Mortguard. During those five years they had two children, Barry and Danette, and also built several beautiful homes under the company name of "Renda".

They chose Victoria for their new business "Deen's Mortgage" and have built several investment buildings and two restaurants, one at Campbell River and one called "Famous Charley's" in Victoria. While in Vegreville, Charles was on the

provincial winning team for hockey during high school years and the provincial team in curling.

Meryl went on to graduate from the University of Alberta as a high school teacher. She immediately married John Ursulak and they built a home on the former John Ursulak homestead.

They have four children: Hugo (by a previous marriage), Dawn, Christine and John Paul. Meryl was president of the Students' Union when graduating, then took several courses in sewing from NAIT and continued in Food Science at University. She is an excellent seamstress and homemaker and when the last child came of school age, she returned to teaching as Principal of the R. R. Cairn's School that her mother had started. Meryl and her children are very involved in music and Meryl continues to take courses from University as her mother had done before her.

By the time Diane and Margaret were born, there were more opportunities in Vegreville such as figure skating, dancing and music. Both girls soon became involved in all three. All three girls attended C.G.I.T. and Explorers before that in Vegreville.

Margaret became a real horse-lover and showed her American Saddle horse "Flicker" at all the local fairs and later her beloved thoroughbred "Natchma".

During the 1960's, Jim became very interested in harness-racing and had acquired his own horse which he trained on the Ursulak farm place just east of town. When Margaret was in high school, he decided to move to his aunt's farm in Lloydminster where there were well over 300 of these horses. Margaret became an Assistant Veterinarian and interned in Victoria where she was immediately put in the position of head nurse for the ten doctors, operating out of a clinic. She had worked along with the veterinarians at the farm and after two years in Victoria decided to go on to be a veterinarian, so is presently working away on her science degree at the University of Victoria. She became engaged to Steve Legg who plans to be a Marine Biologist so they are both ardent scuba divers and have formed a company to collect specimens for biology labs, and have a good lab of their own.

Diane married after high school but continued working as a secretary for six insurance agents in a large office in Edmonton with just one other secretary. She was offered the position of agent in the new office they were opening but her health failed and she returned home after extensive treatment.

During a recession she managed a trip to Europe to visit friends Margaret had made in Germany as an exchange student, sponsored by the Vegreville Lions Club. Diane was accompanied by Tess Payne, a

friend formerly of Vegreville. On her return, she attended NAIT and graduated as a Dental Assistant, winning the Proficiency Award. She was offered a good position at the University of Alberta but was unable to carry on after only a month due to ill health.

Jim left the farm as his health was failing due to rheumatoid arthritis and the move to Vancouver was made for the sake of both Jim's and Diane's health. Diane passed away two years later at the age of 24 years from Hodgkin's Disease. Jim remains healthy and well and is busily engaged in the family business "Lynn Buckets Ltd."

To Jim and Dorothy, Vegreville will always be "home" — that lovely place where their good friends live and they still have their family to visit.

Callahan, Dennis

In 1912, Dennis and Anna Callahan moved here from New Richmond, Wisconsin to try to make a living for their family of fifteen. They bought the McVeety farm (SW 30-52-13) in the Highlow district but did not prosper and most of the family died or moved away soon after.

A son, Dan, later homesteaded in the Mallaig area and is now deceased. The oldest daughter, Margaret, married Charlie Brinton. Another daughter, Alice, worked in the telephone office in Vegreville, married Frank Molitar and moved to the Seattle area where she died some years ago. Rose Callahan was in the first graduating class of nurses in the General



At Vegreville Exhibition about 1937. Pat Callahan, his sister Margaret (Callahan) Brinton of Vegreville, and cousin Steve McCarty visiting from Wisconsin.



Callahan girls at their Highlow farm (bought from McVeetys, now Medynskis). Back: Alice, Margaret; Front: Rose, Loretta. 1914.



Enjoying a Chinook at C. W. Brinton's, 1935. Back row (l. to r.) — Pat Callahan, Willis Tierney, George Brinton, Chas. Brinton. Middle: Patrick Callahan, Ora Mae Callahan, Doreen Brinton, Burton Tierney, Wilhelmina Tierney, Donald Brinton. Front: Margaret, Betty, Hazel Brinton, Robert Callahan.

Hospital, Vegreville; she later died of T.B. in the States.

Elmer "Pat" Callahan served overseas with 151st Battalion and returned to farm at Highlow (SE 19-52-13). He married Christie Moore's daughter, Ada, who was a school-teacher there. They raised a family of four: Patrick Jr. who died of peritonitis in 1940; Marjorie, married Larry Bourque; Robert became an undertaker, now semi-retired, is an alderman in the city of Red Deer; Ora Mae Baker of Red Deer. The family moved into Vegreville when Pat enlisted in Veterans' Guard in WWII; later Ada and Pat lived and worked in Edmonton; both of them died in the 1960's.

Campbell, C. W.

by Mildred (Gray) Campbell

My birthplace in 1895 was in the town of Arthur, West Luther, in the County of Wellington, Ontario. In 1908 my father, George Gray, and my two half-brothers, Elgin and Fred, and half-sister Ethel, migrated to Vegreville.

My father and Fred and Ethel settled on a farm ten miles northwest of town, which was Hudson's Bay land. The house we settled in in 1909 had some "vermin" in it which gave us a hearty welcome, and also which we put up an awful battle to eradicate "guess who". Elgin went to Edmonton and worked at the Standard Mines. We expected to homestead, but all the good land had been taken up in previous years, right through to the Saskatchewan River.

In May, 1911, Ethel was operated on for T.B. and passed away on my birthday, July 18, at the age of 21 years. Never having had any responsibility at house-keeping, I started in then and really learned the hard way, but with the kindness of Mrs. James Dunn, Sr., and Mrs. Bert Jennings, who came to my rescue, we carried on until 1917.

When Fred bought his own place from Mr. Chillibeck in 1917, and my father made his home with him, I took employment in Vegreville with Mr. and Mrs. Hamsoos at the bake shop, and stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Butchard, the School Inspector, until fall when my father and I left on a trip in November, which took us to Manitoba, Ontario and New York State, and we arrived home in March, 1918.

I took employment with Mr. and Mrs. Clair Watts Sr., for a couple of years, and a year with Dr. and Mrs. Couillard and Mrs. Willis Cole, and finally with Mr. and Mrs. Horton, and this position ended on June 29, 1921 when I was married to Waldo Campbell, brother of the man (Mr. Roy Campbell from Cooking Lake) who had bought my father's place. He had returned from the 1914-18 War in 1919, and this now brings my home to the Park Grove district.



Elina and Mother Campbell, 1924.

We farmed two miles north of the school for eighteen years, and our family consisted of Doug, born May 24, 1922, Daphne, October, 1923, Sid in 1927 and Lorraine in 1931. World War II came along and Doug enlisted at the age of eighteen and a half years, and Waldo and I rented the farm out and moved to Warwick to retire. However, they needed a Postmaster and also needed a grain buyer for the Pool, so our daughter Daphne went into the Post Office under the supervision of her father for a couple of years, and finally went into the Edmonton Post Office on the persuasion of the Post Office Inspector. On October 13, 1945 she passed away at 22 years; a car accident causing death.

This brought another move for us, for by this time Doug was back from overseas and was living in British Columbia, and we decided to sell the farm and our home in Warwick, and being fortunate in getting quick sales for the property, we found ourselves on our way to our new home in Oliver, British Columbia.

This lasted for seven years and we settled again out on the Sechelt Peninsula for four years, but Waldo's health by this time brought us back to the valley in 1956, and we settled in Summerland, where Doug had a position with Safeways Cannery, and in November, 1961 Waldo passed away. But this is where any of my friends and old neighbours will find me: Box 10, Victoria Road South, R.R. #2, Summerland, B.C., VOH 1Z0.

As for where the family is, Doug has retired as of June 1978; Sid is in Prince George, and Lorraine (Mrs. George Taber) is living in Oroville, Washington, about four miles south of the border.

Sydney's only child, daughter Louise and son-in-law Floyd W. DeMerchant, and their children Dallas Wade (1967) Terri Lee (1969) all live in Prince George, B.C.

Lorraine's family consists of Ronald Lawrence (1952), Debby Lynn (1955) and Heather Dee Ann (1963).

Doug's family consists of Darlene (Mrs. Allen Forsdick, Summerland) Wayne, Conservation Officer in Trail, B.C. and Jim, Electrician in Cache Creek, B.C.

Campbell, Malbon and Elina

They met in Edmonton at the home of a friend Miss Jones. Elina was attending Alberta College, studying music and working in the dining room. Malbon was working for Big 4 Transfer Company. Work became scarce, so Malbon and a friend Jack Flinn went to Chicago, where work was more plentiful. Elina and Mrs. Jack Flinn followed later and it was there that Malbon and Elina were married in 1923. They lived there for four years and in 1927 they came to Park Grove to farm. They rented one of Mr. Scritsmier's farms for years. The first few years were hard, the first crop was hailed, the second year was better, but the third year it froze. It was disappointing, but Malbon said, "No matter where you are, you have to work; the only thing to do is try and try again". He liked the farm. They were on this farm until after the Second World War; then Mr. Scritsmier sold all his farms to the Soldiers Settlement Board. Malbon and Elina bought the Tierney farm two-and-a-half miles south and moved there. They farmed there until 1963 when they retired and moved into Vegreville.

Elina's parents, Nils and Hulda Johnson, came



Malbon and Elina Campbell, 1924.



Malbon Campbell hauling grain to Warwick, 1940's.

from Sweden in 1902 on one of the ships of the Cunard Lines. Elina was about two-and-a-half years of age and remembers not wanting to leave her grandparents, with whom she spent a lot of time. She remembers riding on her grandpa's back in a backpack similar to what is used today. Her parents tried to distract her attention, when her grandparents left the ship, by giving her confection (candy). She cried and her parents told her they were going to Canada and she said she didn't like Canada. On arriving in Canada they settled at Meeting Creek, Alberta. Twelve sisters and brothers were born and raised here: Gotnard, Gunnar, Ina, Gerda, Clouse, Bertha, Ella, Ruben, Thera, Lillian, Walter who was killed in the Second World War, and Freda. Elina, the oldest, and Freda were born in Sweden.

Campbell, James and Almira

by Dorothy Campbell Gladish

James Hector CAMPBELL (1854-1933)

Almira Jane Cousins (1857-1930)

James Hector Campbell was born in Crapaud, the first incorporated village in Prince Edward Island, on November 12, 1854, more than a decade before Confederation. Both his father, Captain Hector Campbell (1817-1873) and his mother, Ann (Nancy) Darrach (1820-1862) were born in Prince Edward Island of Scottish pioneer families resident in British North America in the vicinity of what was then known as Lot 65. (Public Archives, Charlottetown, P.E.I. and Church of Scotland records.)

His wife, Almira Jane Cousins, was born in Cape Canso, Nova Scotia, the daughter of James Cousins, listed in the 1860 census as being a seaman, native of Prince Edward Island, and his wife, Mercy, a "member of the Methodist connexion". (Nova Scotia Archives.)

They were married in Boston, Massachusetts on 22 September, 1885 and lived in Hingham, Mass. They were the parents of five sons and one daughter.



The Campbell Brothers. Pictured in a 1940's photograph are L. to R.: Chester Waldo, Oliver Miles, Roy Bertram and Malbon Hector Campbell, all of whom lived in the Park Grove and/or Warwick districts north of Vegreville during their lifetime. They represent the entire surviving family of Hector and Almira Jane Campbell of Hingham, Massachusetts, and came to Alberta with their parents in 1905, eventually settling in the Vegreville district in the 1920's.

A son, Walter, and the daughter, Daphine, died in infancy and they emigrated to Alberta with their four surviving sons, Chester Waldo (1887-1961), Oliver Miles (1891-1976), Roy Bertram (1893-1970) and Malbon Hector (1895). All became residents of the Park Grove and/or Warwick districts northwest of Vegreville later on in their lives.

The trip to Alberta was made in 1905. Hector Campbell obtained a homestead entry (NE 34-51-22 W4) in Cooking Lake, Alberta on January 1, 1906. They lived on the homestead and in South Edmonton until 1917. From that time until 1919 they lived in the Vegreville district, when they moved back to South Edmonton. In 1925 they made the final move to Vegreville.

Almira Jane Campbell died on July 18, 1930 at the home of her son, Malbon, in the Park Grove district. James Hector Campbell died on April 16, 1933 at Oliver, Alberta. Both are buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Vegreville.

Campbell, Oliver and Mary Jane

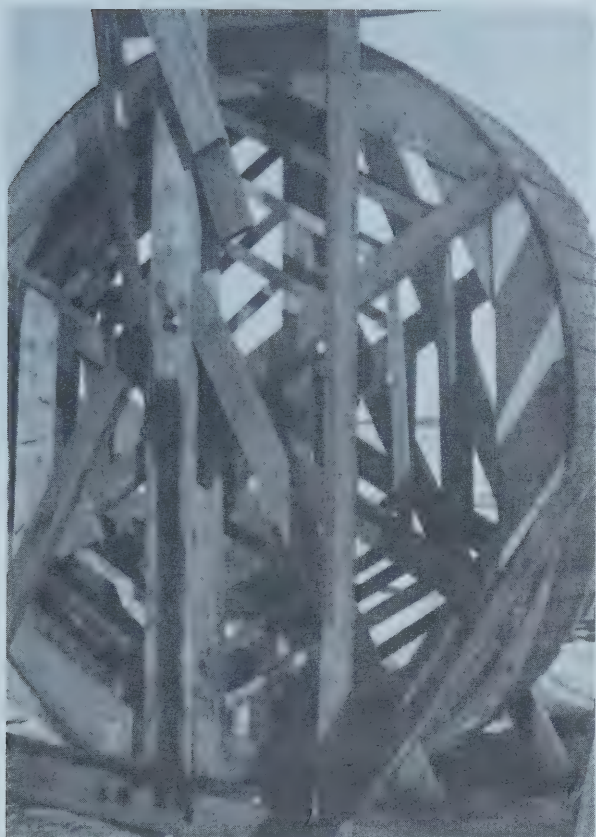
by Dorothy Campbell Gladish

Oliver Miles CAMPBELL (1891-1976)

Mary Jane Burke Purkiss (1891-1961)

Oliver Miles Campbell was the second surviving son of James Hector and Almira Jane Campbell. He was in his early teens when they came to Alberta and one of his favorite stories involved the description of himself as recorded by border officials at the time of the crossing from the United States. He insisted he had been listed as a black female!

Oliver Campbell worked at various jobs in his new country, his favorite being the time he spent as a



Dog-powered Water Wheel, built on the farm of A. W. Lank in the Warwick district north of Vegreville. The running of the dog inside the wheel activated the water pump to which it was attached, for watering livestock. Approximately 1946.

cowhand on the MacIntyre Ranch near Taber in southern Alberta, where he developed a lifelong interest in cattle and livestock. He is listed in the 1908 Edmonton Directory as a teamster working for Standard Mines and living at 456 Isabella with his brother, Waldo. He worked as well freighting goods to the northern part of the province to the Athabasca Landing, Fort McMurray and Wandering River areas, when all goods were shipped over rough trails by horsepower alone. He could describe nights spent on the open trail with crude shelters constructed of evergreen boughs and horse blankets, when the temperature registered below zero.

On November 24, 1919, he married Mary Jane Burke Purkiss, a World War I widow, whose husband, Charles Alexander Purkiss, had been killed in France in September, 1916. She was born near Londonderry, Northern Ireland, at Lower Campsi, Hauvale, district of Eglinton. Her father, James Burke, was born in Sandholes, County Tyrone, Ireland and her mother, Mary Jane Corlett, was also born in Ireland. There were three children from her

first marriage, Kathleen Mary, Annie Elizabeth and Marjorie Ethel.

For a time Oliver and Mary Campbell homesteaded in the Ardrossan area. On August 12, 1921, Walter Bertram Campbell was born and on July 21, 1926 Mary Jane was added to their family. It was in 1926 that they moved to a farm in the Park Grove district (NE 21-53-15 W4) approximately eleven miles northwest of Vegreville, which they rented from the late William Scitzmier. It had a two-storey house set high on a hill, described by Waldo Campbell as 'the first place the wind hit after it left the North Pole'!

There were two more additions to the family; Ernest Oliver (1928-1971) and Dorothy Jean (1930). In the fall of 1944, the family left Park Grove when they purchased the farm formerly owned by John Hohn located in the Warwick-Brush Hill district north of Vegreville.

Family of Oliver and Mary CAMPBELL

As the youngest child of Oliver and Mary Campbell, I am probably not the best equipped to write these memoirs. However, the following is my own record of things as I remember them in the Vegreville district of my childhood.

Growing up in rural Alberta in the 1930's was a unique and enriching experience. It was isolated, but rarely lonely. My first memory is that of the acrid smoke from the coal fire in the kitchen stove as it drifted out the chimney on a frosty fall morning, and this, along with the sound of coyotes at night, or frogs in the spring, still bring thoughts of childhood.

As youngsters, we visited neighbours and relatives in the district and our playmates were often our cousins. Neighbours included the Bill Salamandick's, Tom Woods', Stanley Sanfords', 'Slim' Killorans', the Dewarts', Dakes' and Zieglers', among others.

In retrospect, childhood activities do not seem to be so highly entertaining as we found them at the time. They included jumping on beds or 'dressing up' when we played inside the house, but the list of outside activities stretched on and on:

— Drowning gophers, or digging them out with the help of our old three-legged dog, Tip. Tip lost a leg in a coyote trap, but survived for many years after the accident.

— Hunting birds' eggs and burying them in piles of grain in the tiller so they would hatch.

— Playing with drains of water in the spring runoff; shaping the little rivers with sticks and floating shingle-boats down the resulting streams.



Campbell Children — Park Grove — 1934. The children of Oliver and Mary Campbell taken in the early 1930's. Shown astride "May" the horse are Ernie Campbell and his cousin, John Foote of Edmonton. Standing are Mary Jane and Dorothy Campbell.



Robert and Dorothy Gladish (nee Campbell) and their family; clockwise, (l. to r.) — Melinda, Valerie and Jacqueline, taken on the occasion of Dorothy's graduation from the University of Calgary where for one year she and daughter Melinda were fellow students, 1970's.



Mary and Oliver Campbell with their family; (l. to r.) — Walter, Dorothy, Mary Jane and Ernie. Warwick, 1950's.

— Playing hide-and-seek in grain that grew over our heads.

— Jumping from the hayloft to the stack below.

— Following the fresh-turned furrow of earth behind the horses and plough in the spring, along with the Franklin gulls.

— Chasing baby killdeer or prairie chickens when we found them.

— Taking lunch out to the men in the fields.

— Rolling tires, both rubber ones and the metal hoops.

— Riding and racing the horses along country roads.

— Hallowe'en tricks throughout the neighbourhood. There was the story of the district farmer who found his wagon fully assembled on the barn roof the day after Hallowe'en, but this type of trickery was engaged in by the young men, of course, not the younger children.

Rare family outings to Cooking Lake on a Sunday were much anticipated by us children. We would make the trip in groups of two or three families, the mothers packing a picnic lunch and bathing suits, and if we were lucky we would see buffalo in Elk Island Park, and the sea plane base at Cooking Lake. Planes were always just cause for a rush to the yard to see them overhead, as their passing was still something of a novelty.

Adult entertainment during those years involved local dances or card parties, games of horseshoes in the yard, ring toss or darts in the kitchen and card games around the kitchen table. One of the card games was Hearts, and the Queen of Spades, rumored to have been hidden by Aunt Lena Campbell, turned up over twenty years later when a chair was reupholstered!

Of course there were the Saturday night hockey games with Foster Hewitt ('He shoo-oots, he scores!!) and visitors gathered to listen. At first this involved taking turns with the old earphone radio, but later the battery model radio that stood in the corner of the kitchen became the centre of attention when each one pulling for his favorite team would cheer and argue the technicalities of the game and the skill (or lack of it) of the various players.

Times were not always happy, of course. I remember when my brother, Walter, contracted Scarlet Fever and was quarantined in the living room with blinds drawn, and the rest of the house in worried silence until he recovered. The living room served as sick room through bouts of measles and other childhood diseases. One year I missed the bulk of six months' school due to whooping cough. Doctors were eleven miles away and Mom became adept at home remedies including hot mustard plasters, salt packs, bread and milk poultices and the old standby, Epsom salts. In her mind those Epsom salts had something to do with 'keeping the blood clean', but it was an entirely different part that was cleaned in our experience.

I vaguely remember Dr. Yak from Vegreville visiting the house on a machine which predated the snowmobile and his bills were always slower than his service in those days before medicare. He was a rotund man with a ready smile and he and Dr. Shandro were our doctors for years.

There was the time late one night when we were roused from sleep by a loud knocking at the door to find an RCMP constable and his dog standing on the verandah. They were searching for a neighbour woman who was missing from her home and whom they later found dead from poisoning in one of our granaries. Walter and Dad accompanied the Mountie in the search as they had last seen the missing woman that afternoon as they worked in the field. The unfortunate woman had become depressed through illness and had left her home and family to resolve her own problem in this manner.

My own first experience of death came when the neighbour, Mr. Edward Parker, came rushing to our door one morning to get Mom's assistance. I was four years old at the time and followed them across the field which separated our houses. In their consternation they did not notice as I followed them in to the bedroom where Mrs. Parker, his wife, had died during the night. Small as I was, the feeling of awe I experienced at the sight of the waxen figure in the nightcap lying on her bed is still fresh in my memory. Mr. Parker died a few years later, peacefully also, in

his rocking chair. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ed Parker are buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Vegreville.

Farm work was shared by the whole family. Though Mom was small in stature, her work contribution equalled that of a man, as she carried out house and garden chores, cared for stock and chickens and often stooked in the fields in the fall.

Fall may have been a bone-wearying time for the adults, but to us children it was wonderful. Threshing time meant mountainous meals with lots of pie and cake. As children we were enlisted to keep the grain away from the threshing machine spout as it filled the granary. This involved shovelling or leaping on the grain to spread it out and chewing wheat to make wheat gum.

The harvest trains came from eastern Canada during the war years bringing loads of men to replace those absent in the forces. Many of these men had little or no farm experience and one city boy from Quebec comes to mind in particular. His courtly manner with the horses was a source of much amusement to the other men. One night he asked for a lantern so that the horses could see to eat. Another time he was heard politely asking his horse to please lift its hoof from where it was crushing his foot. He took the kidding of the others with good humor, though, and was well liked by everyone.

After the fall work was done, there would be the trip with horses and wagon to the mill to have the winter supply of flour and shorts ground from the grain. This supply of flour and bran was stored in large white sacks in the boys' bedroom, and it diminished as each batch of bread was made. Mom made bread regularly letting the dough rise above the warming oven on the old Findlay stove, punching it down vigorously between risings.

Another commodity stockpiled for winter was coal, which was hauled by team and wagon or sleigh from 'down south' of Vegreville, and stored in the cellar. On cold winter nights the kitchen stove and the heater in the living room would be banked with coal for the night, but they generated very little heat by the following morning, and we often experienced our own brand of energy shortage in that house on the hill. We would wake in the morning with frost patterns thick on the windows, and the need for nightcaps and thick woolly nightwear in the 'old days' was no mystery to us.

School days brought a whole new world to our doorstep. We walked, rode bicycles or horses, or drove buggies and sleighs to cover the two and one-half miles to Park Grove School. In winter we often skied behind the cutter and horses. As they say, getting there was half the fun! There were Musical

Festivals in Vegreville, local track meets and the highlight of the year, the Christmas concert. All these activities involved much work and preparation on the part of both students and teacher. No description of rural life would be complete without a tribute to the rural teacher. Country schoolteachers were and are a rare breed and we had some of the finest, including Verna Armstrong Nicholson, Verla Thompson Fuller and Margaret Dinwoodie Beacom.

School included visits from Miss Black, the District Nurse. She came at intervals to ensure that we all received our inoculations and health checks. On one occasion, cousin Sidney Campbell in the lineup for a needle was so zealous in his attempts to terrify my sister, Mary Jane, of the coming shot that when her turn came she fainted dead away.

Sometimes on our way to school we would see the displaced persons of the Depression years, the hoboes, trudging down the road looking for a place to sleep and eat. My sister's husband, Leo Steinbach, recalls one particular hobo known locally as Sickfeet who turned up regularly, two or three times a year, looking for a handout. Stories of people forced to take relief as a means of subsistence were common.

All four of us completed the first eight years of our school lives at Park Grove rural school. Walter finished Grade Eight there, along with his school career, and went to work on the farm. He continues to live and work on the family farm just southeast of Warwick.

Mary Jane left Park Grove to finish Grade Nine by correspondence and part of Grades Ten and Eleven at Vegreville High School, when she boarded with Pauline and Floyd Emery. Following school, she spent some time on the farm, had a brief sojourn in Vancouver, B.C. and worked as a telephone operator for the Alberta Government Telephones in Vegreville. On November 7, 1951, she married Leo Calvin Steinbach and they live on the home farm of Leo's father, John Steinbach, adjacent to Brush Hill School north of Vegreville. Their children are John Oliver (1952) a soilsman with the Alberta Government; Keith Jeffrey (1957) attending the University of Alberta, and Sheila Marie (1968) presently a public school student in Vegreville.

Following his eight years at Park Grove, Ernie continued to Grade Ten at Kolomea School. He worked at farming and on the oil rigs before and after his marriage to Myrtle Jessie McGowan of Hairy Hill. Their children are the twins, Betty Elaine (1952) — (Mrs. Leonard Chmilar of Edmonton and their son, Marc James Chmilar (1978); Barbara Ann (1952) — (Mrs. Linwood Laughy, Cold Lake); Deborah Lynn (1956); Colin James (1958) and Karen

Louise (1959). Ernie died in a single-vehicle accident south of Two Hills in June of 1971.

After leaving Park Grove, I completed Grade Nine at both Kolomea and Warwick schools, then proceeded to Vegreville High School for Grades Ten, Eleven and Twelve. Kathleen Sanford and I boarded for a short time with Mr. and Mrs. W. Harkness who lived a few doors from the high school in a small white house. Later we boarded with the William Goodwin family. I completed the final year of Grade Twelve by correspondence on the family farm at Warwick, then took training for a Junior Elementary and Intermediate Certificate at the University of Alberta in 1949-50. This was followed by two years of teaching Grades one to nine in rural schools at Minburn, Vermilion and Ranfurly. On December 15, 1956, I married Robert Andrew Gladish of Carleton Place, Ontario and we presently live in Fort Macleod, Alberta. Our children are Mary Melinda (1958) attending the University of Calgary; Valerie Jean (1962) at Winston Churchill High School in Lethbridge, and Jacqueline Lee (1969) a public school student at W. A. Davis School in Fort Macleod.

Campbell, Waldo and Mildred by Doug and Ruth Campbell

My folks moved to Warwick where father was postmaster and then a grain buyer for the Pool.

Following the death of my sister Daphne in 1946, my parents, along with Sid and Lorraine moved to Oliver, B.C. where we lived at the time. Father passed away in 1963 and mother still lives in Summerland, B.C.

Sid lives in Prince George and Lorraine in Oroville, Washington. Sid's address is 2580 Abbot Crescent, V2L 2X8 and Lorraine Tabor's is Box 881, Oroville, Washington 98844.

As for yours truly, I left the farm in 1941 when I enlisted in the service. I married Ruth Davis in May, 1942 at Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Ruth is the niece of Jim and May Cadzow, who you will remember.

In 1945 I returned from overseas with a disability and had to make a decision as to returning to the farm or joining the labour field. I chose the latter and have been with Canada Safeway for thirty years. Presently I am manager of their frozen foods plant in Abbotsford, B.C.

We have three children: Darlene of Summerland; Wayne of Trail and Jim in Cache Creek, B.C. They are all married and have presented us with six grandchildren.

Mother is 83 years young and travels extensively. She was off to Scotland on May 26 for two months.

Cantelon, Hart

by Hart Cantelon

The Cantelon family arrived in Vegreville in March of 1944. I served as student minister to the Charge which included Mundare, Lavoy and Ranfurly with supervising duties for Warwick, Hairy Hill and Two Hills. My coming was due to the untimely death of Dr. Armstrong. We lived as a family during the following year in the old Manse a block east of the Anglican Church while I attended St. Stephen's College in Edmonton during the week and served the charge on week-ends. On completing my Seminary at St. Stephen's College and receiving my Testamur in Theology as well as my Bachelor of Divinity Degree from the University of Alberta, I was called a full-time minister to the Charge and served until June, 1948.

There were many highlights in our ministry there. The birth of our second son Hart, who is now a professor at Queen's University, Kingston, and the coming of our first daughter Ethel-Dell, who married a teacher, Jim Horne, who serves in the Red Deer Public School System. Especially do we remember the interdenominational young people's group who went annually to Lake Edith Camp, Jasper with numbers upwards of 100, together with ladies from the community to cook, and a convoy of 19 cars and trucks to take equipment, food, and campers.

Our relationships, not only with those of our own congregation, but with our Ukrainian friends, and the Jewish community at Vegreville, have brought lasting friendships throughout the years. We concluded our ministry there in June of 1948 when I went to the University of California for post-graduate studies and to receive my Master's Degree. The congregations on the Vegreville field were most supportive and kind. The first new car we ever owned came from them as a gift, in 1946, when we received a spanking new Plymouth car courtesy of the combined congregations of the field.

Carter, George and Esther

by Marge Carter

Carter, George Thornton Carter, Esther (Kindy)
September 12, 1882 — March 26, 1962 January 18,
1881 — May 9, 1969.

The Carters', a family of thirteen, emigrated to Canada from Nottingham, England, and settled in the Hamilton, Ontario area in 1734. George Thornton Carter was born September 12, 1882, in Bartonville, Ontario, a small community in the Hamilton, Ontario area. George, like his forefathers, became a bricklayer. He then joined the British Army to fight in the Boer War 1899-1902.



George and Esther Carter, 1938.

In 1915, George and his brother Hilary moved to the Mellowdale area of Westlock, Alberta, to take up farming. George not only farmed in the district, but served as a Justice of Peace. George and his brother left farming in 1917 to return to Buffalo, New York, U.S.A.

On May 2, 1917, George married Esther Kindy at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Esther's parents emigrated from Holland to Pennsylvania, U.S.A., in the early 1800's. They later settled in Selkirk, Ontario, operating a fur tannery. The fur business is still in operation, practically on the same site.

Shortly after George and Esther were married, they took up residence in Buffalo, New York, U.S.A. at which time George was employed in a Steel Plant.

In 1918, they moved to the Brush Hill district of Vegreville, Alberta. They farmed there until George's death in March, 1962.

They had two children, Willis Ashton, born October 7, 1921, and Alice Elizabeth (Bailey) born November 2, 1922.

While farming in the Brush Hill district, George still practised bricklaying. He helped lay the brick veneer on the old A.G.T. building of Vegreville in the 1930's. He also built many chimneys in and around this area, including work on the Brush Hill school which is still standing. He was also known to have brick-laid for many large stores in Edmonton, including the T. Eaton Store. He also held the position as Secretary-Treasurer of the Brush Hill school district.

Esther passed away May 9, 1969, in Edmonton, Alberta.

Willis is still farming the original farm where his Father and Mother settled in 1918.

Cassidy, Martin and Gertrude

by Pat (Cassidy) Pruss

Martin W. Cassidy was born in 1890 at Kimeo, Kansas and with his parents came in 1893 to farm at St. Albert, Alberta. His father's ill health cut short Dad's school days after the fourth grade as he and two older brothers had to help provide for the family which in all was six boys and one girl. Many a hardship was encountered as the boys freighted to Athabasca Landing.

In 1919 he wed Gertrude Smith who was employed as a secretary at the Land Titles Office in Edmonton. She was born at Copper Cliff, Ontario in 1897, the youngest of eight, and came west as a teenager with her mother. Dad and Mother operated a grocery store in Edmonton but farming was Dad's desire and in 1921 they purchased a farm at Vegreville in the Alida district, NE 4-52-15, where they farmed until 1953. In the earlier days Dad with brother Joe threshed for many farmers in the district and snow-plowed many a road during the winter for residents of the community to get to town. Community gatherings and picnics were often held and Alida Hall was built by the farmers in the district for such occasions. Besides being active in the community, Dad was also an original director of the Vegreville Co-op Store.

During the 30's Mom and Dad acquired a homestead in the Ross Creek district where summer months were spent with many a picnic being held with friends and relatives. Although busy trying to raise their family the Cassidy door was always open to young and old. Mother was an excellent cook and homemaker and the saying in the community was — if you need help, phone the Cassidys.

In 1953 they sold their farm and retired to Vegreville. Retirement was not for Dad and for ten years he helped Ken in the Shell Bulk Station.



Martin and Gertrude Cassidy in their car in the 1920's.

In January, 1971 we lost our dear Mother and Dad followed in December of the same year.

From the happy union five children were born. The first child died in infancy. Ken, the oldest boy, married Nita Kortzman and they have eight children



Martin and Gertrude Cassidy's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1969.



Cassidy's Threshing Outfit. Martin in foreground. 1926.



Left to right: Martin Cassidy, his wife Gertrude, Mrs. Smith — Gertrude's mother, Susie — Gertrude's sister. Cassidy farmyard, 1926.

and live in Cache Creek, B.C. The next son, Neil, married Eileen Maciborski; they have three children and live in Kelowna, B.C. Pat, the oldest daughter, married Peter Pruss; they have two children and live in Kaleden, B.C. Colleen, the youngest, married Bill Chapman; they have three children and live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Casson, Tom and Susan

Thomas Casson was born in Lancaster County, England, in 1883. When very young, he became an old country apprentice butcher. At 18, Tom landed in Winnipeg with 50 cents in his pocket and high hopes for a job. He worked diligently with a large meat packing plant for some months and then moved further west to Wapella, Saskatchewan, where he worked for a local butcher for 6 years. In 1907 in Wapella he married a local girl by the name of Susan Smith. In May of 1911, a daughter, Mona Elizabeth was born to them. Then, in the spring of 1913 Thomas Casson bought the local butcher shop in Vegreville, then owned by Dr. Arthur. In June of that same year, his wife and daughter came to Vegreville to join him.

Here, Tom served on the local School Board, Town Council, and fire brigade. He was known as a friend to all sports of the community, never refusing to drive players to the town where they were to play that night. Many was the time he stood in the cold and took tickets at hockey games in Vegreville. Tom also enjoyed curling. Susan curled and skated in her younger years. She was also a member of the Ladies Aide. Susan Casson was a shy, retiring person by nature and an excellent homemaker and devoted wife and mother.



City Meat Market, owned and operated by Thomas Casson, 1915. Shown are "Old Charlie" — the delivery horse, Horace Smith — the delivery boy, Mona Casson (4 years old), and Mr. Thomas Casson. Small building to left was Ladies' hat shop owned by Miss Stinson. Next was the drug store owned by Mr. C. E. Shaw. The lumber yard to the right was operated by Mr. Sam Coombs.

Tom had his butcher shop in Vegreville for 40 years and was popularly known about the community as "Butch". Upon his retirement, Tom became manager of the Vegreville Exhibition Association for a number of years.

Mona Elizabeth attended the Edmonton Normal School and the Alberta University Summer School. She taught school in Vegreville and vicinity for 32 years. She also received her A. T. C. M. from the Toronto Conservatory of Music in piano, both in solo performers and Teachers.

Thomas Casson died in 1960. His wife, Susan, lived with their daughter, Mona Clement, for several years and passed away in 1979, at the age of 94.

Reminiscences

by Heathy (Stewart) Challenger

I remember:

The delight of wide open spaces, something a prairie child never forgets.

A group of little girls standing on the white picket fence that surrounded our schoolyard and watching the great billows of smoke to the south that heralded the approaching prairie fire. Praying in our own small way that the fire would be stopped at the river. It had already claimed the life of one small child in the Imperial District. The wind changed and the townspeople breathed a sigh of relief.

The thrill of standing on the top of a huge haystack and yelling just for the pure joy of yelling. What therapy, better than drugs!

A clear summer evening and the cries of "Run-sheep-Run" rending the stillness as North teenagers versus South teenagers worked off excess energy. 1914-1915.

A bright moonlight night, a pleasant companion and miles, or so it seemed, of rubbery Vermilion River ice under your skates.

Skinny-dipping in the river south of the R.M.B. Hospital on Fraser's farm. The boys had their pool by the bridge.

The feel of a hot iron in your bed after you'd driven home from a dance; placed there by a loving, thoughtful Mother or Father.

Holding the legs of a chicken while its head was cut off.

Tearing cotton strips for the many-tailed bandages to be made at the next Red Cross Meeting.

Miss Ada I. Wright teaching us how to knit socks for the soldiers.

Sleigh bells on a Sunday afternoon. Albert Baalam and Wally Kennedy were in town. The bells had a message so we knew where to be after Sunday School was over.

Sawing wood with a cross-cut saw. "Push, pull; push, pull", says Father, "it's good for constipation".

Saturday night bath — the large, long tub was brought into the kitchen where the water was heating on the kitchen stove. The cleanest went first, then the next had a couple of dippers full of hot water added and in he or she went. The last usually had a fair amount of water.

The thrill and excitement of being able to attend the performances offered by CHAUTAUQUA.

The dogs howling when the bell on the Town Hall tolled the noon hour, supper and the curfew, that sent us all scoting for home.

A Teenage Escapade 1919 Variety

submitted by Heathy Stewart Challenger

In June of 1919 the Vegreville Cadet Corp was being inspected by Major Miller of Calgary. The students were the spectators and out on the playgrounds.

The Girls Basket Ball team were in uniform — white middies with blue sailor collars and navy-blue full-pleated bloomers plus running shoes of the high-laced variety. We were all clowning around when one of the girls from the Grade VIII class — at that time housed in "The School for Foreigners", north of the tracks remarked, "You think you're smart. I dare you to walk around the roof of the school".

Marj. Fraser looked at me and I (Heathy Stewart) looked at her. We'd walked from window to window on the south side but never had we tackled the north side or around the school.

We accepted the dare and away we went up the fire escape and out the Assembly Hall windows on the south side. We were not noticed by the Cadet Corp until we reached the north-east corner and their glances west attracted Major Miller's attention so he looked to see two red-headed girls walking precariously along the roof's edge. He remarked to Mr. Maine, the principal, according to the boys, "What goes on up there?".

Mr. Maine looked and said, "Those two red-headed devils, I'll — — —."

Major Miller's reply, "No, let them finish, then give them "Hell" if they're still alive".

We accomplished our feat, came down the fire escape and into the arms of Miss Whittacker and Miss Wright, who with tears in their eyes said, "Thank God you're safe".

Little did we know then of a teacher's responsibility. However, no strapping for once.

Chappell, James Alfred and Sarah Jane by Lyn Kittle

James Alfred Chappell was born January 18, 1872, in Prince Edward Island and spent his childhood years there. He married Sarah Jane Patterson of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, on February 9, 1904.

Before moving west, two children, Sterling and Edward, were born. Mr. Chappell came to Edmonton in 1907 to work as a building contractor; Sarah and the children followed in 1909. The old Royal Alexandra Hospital and the "Flat Iron" Building on Jasper Avenue are two of the buildings (still in existence) that Mr. Chappell helped build.

Their moving days were not over, however, and Mr. Chappell decided that the country was the place for raising a family. Consequently, in the spring of 1918, the James Chappell family (now consisting of six boys and one girl) moved to a farm eight miles south of Ryley where one son, Edward, still resides. While in Ryley, two more children, Mabel and Douglas, were born.

On April 10, 1925, the family then moved to the present farm one mile east of Vegreville where sons Leonard and Willard still reside. All the Chappell youngsters were athletic and excelled in baseball, curling, and horseshoes.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Chappell are as follows:

Sterling Alexander — married Iona Fairburn of Vegreville on November 10, 1939. Sterling worked as an electrician and is now retired and living at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. They have one son, Brian.

James Edward — married Ruth Scott of Vegreville and has six children: Lillian, Marilyn, James, George, Donald and Carol. Eddie farmed the original half-section at Ryley and has retired on the farm.

Donald Leonard — was the first child born "out west" in this family and has been farming with his brother Willard at Vegreville. Leonard spent several



Chappell Family at their farm, 1926. Back row (l. to r.) — Julia, James (father), Leonard, Eddie, Alfred. Front row (l. to r.) — Mable, Doug, Gordon, Sarah (mother), Willard.

years driving truck and many hours playing baseball and curling.

The late **Alfred James** — married Kaye Steele on September 21, 1940 and had two children, Diane and Rick. Alfred spent most of his life in Edmonton working as an electrician.

Julia Ann — married William James Kittle of Lavoy on October 18, 1939, and has four children: Joan, Bill, Florence and Judy. They farmed near Lavoy until 1972 when they moved to Edmonton where they still reside.

Robert Willard — is farming with brother Leonard on the present Chappell farm near Vegreville. Willard holds a miner's certificate and spent twelve winters in the Ryley coal mines. Active on the Vegreville Exhibition Board for about thirty years, Willard is still a director on the Board.

Gordon Wesley — married Patricia Bitz of Tofield and has two children, Lois and Lenore. Gordon has recently retired from the Canadian National Railways and lives at Sardis, British Columbia.

Mabel — married John C. F. Norfolk of Hardisty on June 30, 1946 and has three children: Patricia, Jacqueline and Penny. Mabel and Jack lived in Hardisty for a short while before moving to Stony Plain where they still reside.

Douglas — married Doris Knudson of Provost and has three children: Bonny, Geraldine and Brenda. Douglas served as a pilot in World War II and continued flying as a career at Terrace, British Columbia. They presently reside at Castlegar, B. C.

Charuk, William

Courtesy of the Vegreville Observer

On Sunday, December 8, 1975 Mr. William (Wasylo) Charuk was a proud celebrant at a party arranged in his honour to mark his 90th birthday. It was an open house party, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Chateau Dining Hall, prepared by his grandchildren. Many friends and relatives enjoyed the occasion throughout the day, from whom Mr. and Mrs. Charuk received many greetings, congratulations and good wishes. Very Rev. Turzanski officiated at this happy ceremony, and other speakers took part in the short program.

Mr. William Charuk, a very well-known pioneer in this district, came to Canada with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Charuk, at the turn of the century (1901), and settled in the Sich-Kolomea area. He was the oldest in the family of three; his younger brother, Nick and sister, Mary, later Mrs. Mike Cherniawski.

As a young man, he worked out for a few years, as well as helping his parents at home, but soon he settled down to farming, and in 1900 he married Miss Mary Rizun from that community; they had a son,

Mike, who now lives in Vegreville. Mr. Charuk was an eager and hard working individual, and became one of the progressive farmers in the following years.

In 1953, as their age was advancing, they retired from farming and moved to live in Vegreville, but four years later his wife passed away, so he was left to carry on by himself in the best way he could. Finding life rather lonely and difficult, he decided to remarry, and in 1961 he married Mrs. Mary Chmilar (a widow), formerly Mrs. Iskiw of Myrnam. At present they continue to live a quiet retired life at their home in the west part of town.

Among his other interests Mr. Charuk is a model gardener; he still loves to work his soil well, and grows a fine garden every year, providing themselves with vegetables year-round. He is also a dedicated churchman. He faithfully worked for his Church in whatever way he could out in his former district, and later here in town. He served as one of the Elders in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Vegreville for many years, and still does when need arises.

Going through his life's history, one could easily find that he well earned the status of a respectable member of his community, and a worthy citizen and pioneer of this country. He truly deserves the fitting recognition such as was given him on this occasion of his 90th birthday.

Chernecki, Mike

Being asked to write up a brief history of my family in the Vegreville district, I will attempt to do my best, possibly most about myself as this is the one I know best.

As close as I can recall my Dad, Andrew Chernecki (as I spell it now though it has been spelled Cherneski, Chernetzky, Chernesky; it took research of the family tree to get proper spelling) immigrated to Canada from Austria in the early part of the 20th century. He could speak no English so after working in Southern Alberta and Edmonton, he was lonely and came out to Ranfurly where his two brothers had filed homesteads one year previously. He had a few dollars and filed for a homestead seven miles north of Ranfurly where my brother Walter resides now.

Needing money, Dad, being a cavalry man in the Austrian army, took a job hauling water to the steam engine that was breaking land on the former "Horse Shoe Ranch" at Innisfree. With his wages he purchased three oxen and began improvements on his homestead. As a lad I would ask him why he chose north of Ranfurly and he simply replied "to be close to his brothers".

Around 1914 he married my mother, former

Katherine Chmilar, whose Dad was already an established farmer having started a few years before.

My Mother being the oldest child was born in Canada. However, she passed away when I was five, so I don't remember too much but doubt that she was able to get much schooling; however, she spoke English and could read and write which was a tremendous asset to my Dad. They had five of us kids on the old homestead in a log house that is still there and evidently did well farming as they had acquired three quarters of land by 1925 when they purchased the Vegreville farm which I presently own three miles east of Vegreville on Highway 16.

Upon moving to Vegreville they had a lot of hard luck. My mother died in 1927 when my youngest sister (now Mrs. Nick Yakimetz) was born; Jenny never saw her mother. Saddled with a large mortgage and six children, my Dad must have had it real rough because shortly after the depression set in, of which I can recall quite a lot.

Considering all that happened, my two older sisters, (Annie) the late Mrs. Bill Maciborski and (Mary) Mrs. Alex Doukas of Calgary, quit school early to help at home. When I started school there was only Walter and I going.

We went to the Ridge Park School two miles south of my present yard. The old school was built on the late George Dean farm — an outstanding farmer. I have many happy recollections of those care-free days. When I started I could speak hardly any English and my brother told me that the teacher would strap me. So not to let her know, I refused to say a word to her. She was a grand Lady, the late Mrs. Harkness. The first few months she let the older girls as I recall (Betty Brinton, Josephine McCarty, Irene Umphrey and Beatrice McAreavy) skip a class and spend it teaching me. Good girls, all of them.

The following year the teaching job was taken by Mrs. Harold Kennedy who was a neighbor; I wasn't afraid of her. She taught at Ridge Park for four years, just a slip of a girl who ran a very strict school and we all loved her. (About 35 kids in nine grades). She was followed by Miss Dorothy Harkness, a daughter of the former Mrs. Harkness. Well, the older boys remembered Mrs. Harkness strictness and were determined that the daughter would not boss them. Being Dorothy's first school, at about mid-term she threw in the towel. The School Board then brought in the school's first man teacher, a big retired R.C.M.P. who had left the force because of a bad back. Well, if his back was bad it sure never bothered him when he'd swing his willow fence post over our backs.

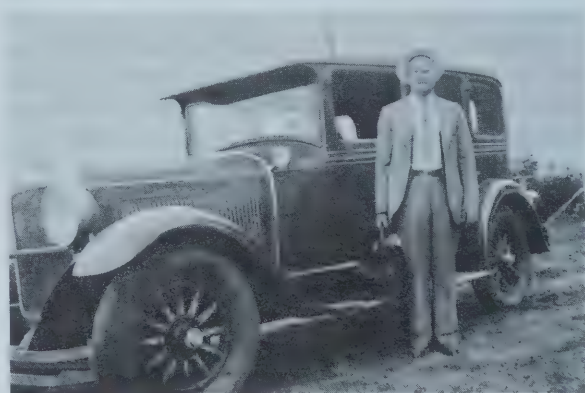
Mr. Howard Gimby was followed by a local girl, on whose Dad's land the school was built — Miss

Dora Dean, a beautiful young lady. By this time the big boys were gone and my class became the leaders. My sisters (Victoria) Mrs. Wally Kuchar, Edmonton, and Jennie were in school. Dora was a great teacher, but us rascals often left her in tears. When I hear about the young generation, I think Boy! we sure were no angels.

The economy picked up after the war and my Dad, who had married again and raised another family, did well farming. He passed away in 1957 predeceased by his eldest daughter the year before. With credit available and a trusting Bank Manager I purchased the home place in 1959, getting married in 1961. Gloria and I have raised three boys (Jim, Joe and Michael), who are all working now and have a 10-year-old daughter Kathleen at home.

Farming has been good to me and I have done it by choice. After fifty years I still think Vegreville is the best place in the world (though the winters' are longer) and is populated by the grandest bunch of people.

Canada has been good to all of us and I hope our children can maintain the prosperity and freedom we have enjoyed.



Nick Cherniawsky visiting the William Triska family, 1936.

Cherniawsky, Nick

When Alexis Triska emigrated to Canada in 1907 with his two sons, William and Peter, and two daughters, Helen and Dora, he left behind a daughter, Kalyna, who was married to Harry Cherniawsky. They had a son, Nicholas.

Twenty years later Nick came to Canada and set his roots down in Vegreville where he stayed with his uncle and aunt, William and Pauline Triska.

He did work on the farm of Mike Cherniawsky and others for some time, then moved on.

Cherniawsky, Wasyl and Anna

by William N. Cherniawsky

Wasyl Cherniawsky, his wife, Anna, and family

left the village of Wolchkowiz, county of Sniatyn, Western Ukraine and came by boat to Canada in the spring of 1900. They then came west by rail to what is now known as Alberta. The family consisted of a daughter Anna, fifteen, (later Anna Wynnnychuk), sons Micheal, thirteen, and Nickola, eleven. Katie was married in the Ukraine to Tom Didyk and they had one daughter, Anna (Anna Charuk).

With this same group travelling to Canada, came Peter and Andy Svarich and Tom Worobitz. They all settled in the Sich-Kolomea district, north of Royal Park.

The Ruryks — Maria Ruryk, daughter of Nick and Helen (Triska) Ruryk came to Canada with her grandfather, Louis Triska, in 1907. She stayed at Didyks for one year and in 1908 married Nickola Cherniawsky of the Sich district. They moved to a homestead and with their young son, William, moved back to Sich-Kolomea.

They had twelve children. Four passed away in infancy and one son, Alex, passed away at the age of 21 in 1934. William, Marshall, Walter and Terry live



Prokip Macyk and wife Anne (Ruryk), 1920.

in Edmonton. Anne (Billings) lives in Brantford, Ont., Olga (Kravetz) lives in Langley, B.C. and Marian Cherniawsky lives in Toronto, Ont.

In 1912 Maria Cherniawsky's brother and sister, John and Anna Ruryk, came to Canada and in 1913, her parents, Nick and Helen, her two sisters, Kalyna and Dorothy followed. After a year's time Nick Ruryk decided to go back to Europe and as soon as he sent the fares the rest of the family were to follow. In 1914, Anna and Kalyna went back, arrived in England when the first World War was declared, were detained there for six weeks and then had to return to Canada. Helen returned to Europe in 1922 and stayed there till her husband, Nick, passed away and came back to Canada in 1932.

Life for Nickola and Maria Cherniawsky was very hard. They sold their homestead at Slawa for \$700.00, moved back to Sich-Kolomea and bought a quarter-section from Nickola's brother Joseph for \$1200.00. With very little machinery and little money, their first few years were very hard indeed. Later they bought a half-section of C.P.R. land and by the time it was paid for, the depression had rolled in. The thirties were hard to live through. Their daughter, Anna, began to teach and son, Marshall, was ready for Normal School. Grain prices fell so there was very little money; this caused them to go deeper in debt. In 1935 Nickola became ill with cancer; went to a Cancer Clinic at Muscatine, Iowa,



Marshall and Olga Cherniawsky and daughter Sonia. 1955.



Four generations. L. to R.: Helen Ruryk, Maria Cherniawsky, Wm. Cherniawsky, and Emily Cherniawsky on the knees, 1930's.

U.S.A. and after five or six weeks passed away at the age of 46. He was brought back and buried in the Ukrainian Cemetery at Sich-Kolomea. Maria was left with several little children to bring up, so the eldest son, William, ran the estate. In 1944 William and his mother sold a half-section, retaining the other half until 1950 when William moved to Redwater. In 1948, Maria, her two daughters, Olga and Marian, moved to Vegreville where Maria bought a home.

William and his wife, Anne (Nykyforuk), bought a share in a cold storage and locker plant in Redwater and after two years sold their share and moved to Edmonton. At first William worked at various construction jobs and then worked at Ashdown's Hardware for nine years. For the following seven and a half years he drove a truck for Grosser Automotive

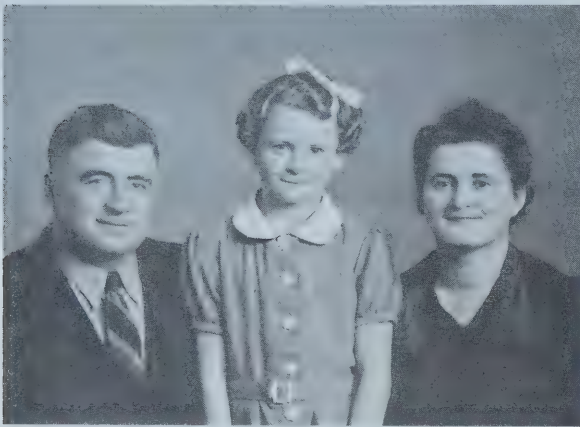
Parts, while Anne was a cook at the Waffle Shop. Both are now retired.

William and Anne had one daughter and two sons. Emily and Chester live in Toronto, Ontario. William J. and his wife live in Langley, B.C.

Maria and Nickola's daughter, Anne, became a schoolteacher and taught at Beaver Lake, Sich and Inland. She then moved to Toronto where she met and married Bob Billings and continued teaching till 1978. They have two children, Kenneth and Debby.

Marshall went to Sich School, attended High School in Vegreville and Normal School at Camrose. He taught at Zora School north of Derwent, Spring Creek School north of Warwick and in a school near Bonnyville.

He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and



William Cherniawsky, daughter Emilie, and wife Ann (Nykyforuk), 1938.



August 8, 1937 gathering at Emil Zaseybida's home in Vegreville in honor of the Greek Orthodox Bishop's visit from Winnipeg. Standing: Panko Zaseybida (Emil's father), Stella (Melnik) Porayko, William Cherniawsky, Bishop Theodorowich, Anne Snaychuk, Eli Porayko, Grandma Helen (Triska) Ruryk, Maria (Ruryk) Cherniawsky (mother), Mrs. Panko Zaseybida, Nancy (Ropchan) Zaseybida. Kneeling: Emil Zaseybida, Dorothy (Ruryk) Hutzulak, Anne (Nykyforuk) Cherniawsky. Front: Angeline Zaseybida, Emily Zaseybida, Paul Hutzulak, John Zaseybida's son, Walter Zaseybida, Christine Hutzulak.



Walter and Helen Cherniawsky, 1951. Church in background.

became a flying instructor stationed at High River and North Battleford. In 1943, while still in the Air Force, he married Olga Ilkiw, daughter of Frank and Katherine Ilkiw of Derwent. After the war he had a John Deere Agency at Derwent, ran the Post Office and later became mayor of the village. In 1955 they moved to Edmonton where Marshall worked for the Income Tax Dept. He entered the Real Estate business selling hotels and then went into the hotel business and is now retired.

Olga attended public school at Sich, High School at Warwick and then took a secretarial course at Alberta College in Edmonton. She worked for the Municipality of Minburn and then for the Town of Vegreville. In 1957 she was married to Stanley Kravetz who operated an Insurance office in Vegreville. They then lived in McBride, B.C. for three years, moving from there to Langley, B.C., operating an Insurance Office in both places. Olga is now working for the B.C. government.

Walter also went to Public School at Sich and High School at Warwick. He became partsman for Black Motors in Vegreville. In 1950 he and Helen Sokolsky were married. They lived in Vegreville for seven years, moved to Edmonton where Walter was a travelling salesman for Healy Motors for nine years and at the present time works for Edmonton Motors. They have one daughter, Caroline (Clark) and three

sons, David and Donald attending university and Peter still at home.

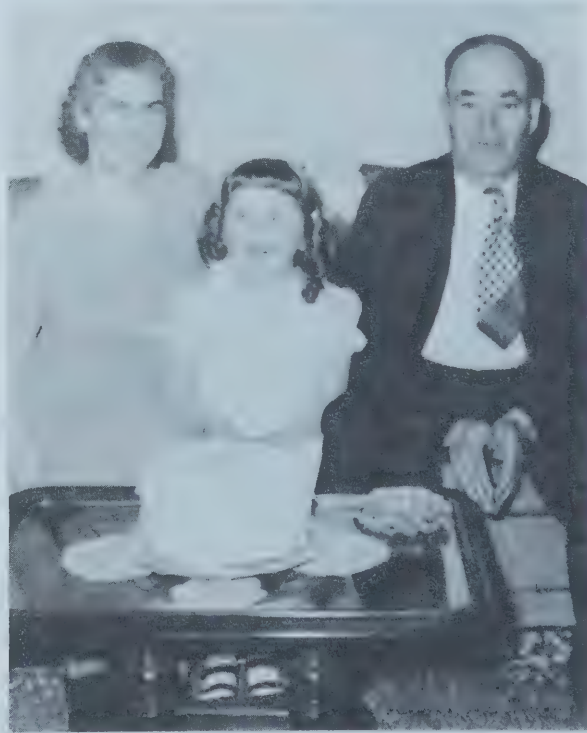
Taras (Terry) finished Grade VIII at Sich and went to High school at the School for the Blind in Brantford, Ont., where he learned piano tuning. He worked with the C.N.I.B. for many years. He played the bass fiddle and sang with the C.N.I.B. Band which consisted of sax, bass, drums and accordion. He married Jess Ferguson of St. Thomas, Ont. and they had two children, Louise and Johnny. Terry passed away in 1978.

Marian, the youngest of the family, started school at Sich, moved to Vegreville where she finished High School. She worked for Dr. Kuzyk for two years and then moved to Ontario to live with her sister, Anne. She now lives in Toronto and works for the Government of Ontario.

The Nykyforuks — Dmetro Nykyforuk came to Canada with his parents, Militon and Anna Nykyforuk, in 1898 from the village of Zawale, county of Sniatyn, Western Ukraine and settled in the Sich-Kolomea district, north of Royal Park. Dmetro helped his parents with the clearing of some of the homestead. In 1913 he married Kalyna Tatarchuk who came to Canada from the village of Wolchkowiz, County of Sniatyn, Western Ukraine. They raised a family of nine children, Steve, Anne, Mary, Rose, Olga, Lily, Vladimer, Bill and Orest.



Stan and Olga (Cherniawsky) Kravetz, Stanley (Jr.), Marcia, Michael. Christmas 1978.



Katherine and Frank Ilkiw, granddaughter Sonia Cherniawsky, 1952.

Steve, Anna (Cherniawsky) and Vladimir reside in Edmonton. Bill passed away in 1977. Rose (Clorenshaw) resides in Calgary. Olga (Kollasa) lived in Haney, B.C. and passed away in 1978. Lily (Blackman) lives in Vancouver and Orest in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Kalyna Nykyforuk passed away in 1978. Dmetro is retired and resides in Vancouver.

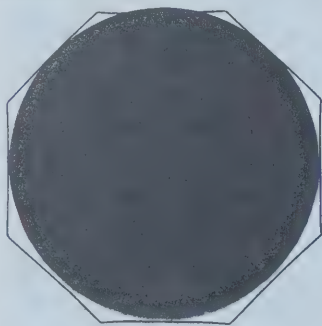
Chomiak, Matthew and Salomia by Steve Chomiak

In 1900, Matthew and Salomia Chomiak, with their two very young children, Eva and Fred, bid farewell to their relatives and friends at the village of Klakotiw in the Province of Brody, Ukraine.

From there, they proceeded to a seaport to take them to Canada. After their arrival in Halifax in 1901,

they travelled by rail to Edmonton, in what was then known as the North-West Territories. There a land agent directed them to a homestead on a quarter-section of land, which was later to be eight miles west of the "Old Vegreville" town site. Settling here they commenced the laborious challenge of a new life in a strange new land.

After several difficult years, they were able to meet the requirements of the "Homestead Laws" and in 1907 Matthew Chomiak was presented with the official deed to his land. Subsequently, the original homestead became, and still is, after 78 years, the basis of the Chomiak farming operation. My father was the first generation, I am second generation, and have passed on the reins of farming of the original homestead to the third generation "Chomiak", our son John. But back to my parents' arrival in Canada.



L. J. Jones
DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

CANADA.

Edward the Seventh, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

To all to whom these Presents shall come—GREETING:

Whereas the Lands hereinafter described, are Dominion Lands within the meaning of "The Dominion Lands Act."

AND WHEREAS

Mathew Chomiak of Township Fifty-two, Range Section West of the Fourth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta, in Our Dominion of Canada, Farmer.

had applied for a grant of the said Lands and his claim to such grant having been duly investigated by Us We have been found to be entitled thereto.

Now Know Ye, that by these presents We do grant, convey and assure, unto the said

Mathew Chomiak his heirs
and assigns forever, all that Parcel or Tract of Land, situate, lying and being in the *Fifty-second Township, in the Section West of the Fourth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta*—in Our Dominion of Canada, and being composed of

The South-East quarter of Section Four of the said Township

containing by admeasurement *One hundred and sixty (160)* acres, more or less:

SAITH AND AWEETHING, HEREBY TO GIVE, unto Us, Our Successors and Assigns, the free use, passage and enjoyment of, in, over and upon all navigable waters that now are or may be hereafter found on, or under, or flowing through or upon any part of the said Parcel or Tract of Land; also reserving all mines and minerals which may be found to exist within, upon, or under said lands, together with full power to work the same, and for this purpose to enter upon, and use and occupy the said lands or so much thereof and to such an extent as may be necessary for the effectual working of the said minerals, or the mines, pits, seams and veins containing the same; and also reserving thereout and therefrom all rights of fishery and fishing and occupation in connection therewith upon, around and adjacent to the said lands, and also the privilege of landing from and mooring boats and vessels upon any part of the said lands and using the said lands in connection with the rights of fishery and fishing hereby reserved, so far as may be reasonably necessary in the exercise of such rights.

To have and to hold the said Parcel or Tract of Land unto the said

and assigns forever.

And We do hereby declare that these presents shall not vest in the said

and assigns any exclusive or other property or interest in or any exclusive right or privileges with respect to any lake, river, stream or other body of water, or in, or with respect to the water contained or flowing therein, or the land forming the bed or shores thereof.

GIVEN under the Great Seal of Canada—Witness,

Charles James Duggan, Esquire, a Companion of the Imperial Service Order, Deputy of Our Right Trusty and Right Well Beloved Cousin the Right Honourable Sir Albert Henry George, Earl Grey, Viscount Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, in the County of Northumberland, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

At OTTAWA, this

Fifth

day of *September*

in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and

seven

and in the *fourteenth* year of Our Sages.

BY COMMAND,

Alcalon

Secretary of State.

Acting Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

Recorded in the Department of the Interior
the 5th September 1907
Liber 890
Folio 497
H. J. Jones & Co.
Attorneys of Dominion Lands Office.

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The Moscow School, 1951. Back row (l. to r.) — Ed. Klymochko, Leonard Babin, Mike Nackonechny, Mike Kuly, Don Frebrowski. Second row (l. to r.) — Nellie Dychkowski, Sylvia Powley, Phyllis Semchyshyn, Virginia Nozak, Gloria Poshtar, Gloria Rokos, Mildred Stewart, Susi Frebrowski, Helen Kondrotiuk, Anne Chomiak, John Chomiak and teacher Frank Stewart. Sitting (l. to r.) — Orest Chomiak, David Powley, Lawrence Filewich, John Nackonechny and Joe Babyn.



Moscow School pupils about 1923.

My father selected a quarter-section that would complement the family needs. He wanted a portion of high land that could grow grain, and also low land to ensure a grazing area for his cattle and horses. So here are my parents in their twenties, having this land in a wilderness, no buildings, two small children, and no money to start a new life. The belongings they brought were few, so they set up an “operation camp” on the present farmyard.

The land agent usually directed immigrants to districts that were bound by the same dialect and customs. To my parents, this was a great advantage to have neighbours of the same mother tongue and who had arrived in Canada a year earlier. The neighbours were Tymchuks, Powleys, Kubins, Babyns and Goshkos. As winter was setting in, my parents, with their family, were invited to spend winter with neighbours.



First generation 1901-1938. Mathew and Salomia Chomiak with their two youngest children Nellie and Steve, 1920.

During the next few years, my father went to work on building the railroad track. My mother stayed the first year with the neighbours. She did a lot of work in the building of the house that father had started when he was not working on the railroad. Besides filling the holes in the log walls with clay and grass, she also prepared the bundles for the thatched roof. A pioneer, Hayduk, the best community carpenter, built the windows, doors and a clay stove.

With the money earned working on the railroad, my father was able to buy two oxen at New Kiew. These oxen were trained, and with the help of Pioneer Tymchuk with horses harnessed in tandem, the



Second generation 1938-1978. Steve and Mildred Chomiak.

breaking of the land began. After six hardship-filled years, the official deed to the homestead was granted my father in 1907.

Traditionally, the Ukrainians were basically agricultural people, and father's desire to establish his farm required a lot of hard work. The next priority was to build a church; so along with the other pioneers, the first "Borschiw" church was built in 1903 — literally by hand. My father and others carried logs on their backs to construct the church. Also during this time my parents often walked eight miles north of their homestead to a monastery which still exists today.

For the next ten years my parents resided in the first house, raising five more children, Annie, John, Pearl, Mary and Sophie. Eventually they built a sturdier home and in the summer of 1913 moved into their second home, where they lived until they retired. This was the house and year where and when I was born. I must have been a Christmas present to my older sisters and brothers, because I was born on Christmas day. My younger sister Nellie was born three years later.

The new house had to be built, as the thatched roof of the first house caught on fire, and had it not been for my brother John's crying, the entire family could have perished. It was also fortunate that there was a rainstorm that night.

Around 1913 to 1914 my father was able to buy four horses and along with his oxen was able to break more land. The harvesting was still done by hand. In later years the stooks were stacked and the community threshing crew would eventually make its way to father's place. Those were the days when farmers helped farmers and they all harvested as one big family. Sometimes the threshing crew would arrive with the snow. However, by this time, my mother, with the older children, would have the stooks stacked. A harvest of 800 bushels was very good.

During the epidemic of 1918, people were dying quickly. When it had passed, my parents thanked the Lord that none of their children, or themselves, were attacked by the virus. It was not until later years that we were all saddened by an illness that resulted in the passing away of three members — John, Pearl, and Sophie.

In the early 1900's bringing up children with proper nourishment was always a problem. Living off the land was possible and the wild game and berries were plentiful. When my father was working on the railroad, the family had one cow. As she was the only source of milk for them, she was hobbled to ensure that she did not wander away. However, one day, the cow, with her hobbles still on, swam across the water just west of the "Moscow Hall", with only



Third generation on original homestead. John and Cathie Chomiak with Christine, Darlene and Karen. 1978.

her horns visible. My mother and the children cried as they witnessed this. They were afraid the cow would drown. The cow made it across and disappeared into the woods and was rounded up several days later.

Once my father grew his own wheat, he took it to Pioneer Kolmatticki who had grinding stones and made flour. Also there were occasions when my father would walk to Edmonton and bring a sack of flour with other essentials on his back. One September this area had such a snowfall that it provided an excellent cover over the potato patch that, when spring came, the potatoes were not frozen.

There were some specific moments of concern in early years as when my sister Annie, as a child, fell asleep in the woods. The family was panic-stricken when they could not find her, anticipating that wolves or Indians got her. However, thanks to an over-abundance of mosquitoes that got to her, her crying was heard and she was found. Another moment of concern was when my mother was walking to the McCallum store which was by Beaverhill Lake and a bunch of longhorn cattle attacked her. She was critically injured and laid up for quite a while.

With regards to the social aspects, the neighbours and friends always visited each other. There were occasions when families would crank up their gramophones and visit and dance. There were very good fiddlers too, and wonderful visits had taken place. Father bought two more quarters of land, one which

we call the C. P. R. till today. After a few more years of farming, my parents retired and moved to Mundare. Father passed away in 1956 at the age of 83 and Mother passed away in 1968 at the age of 94. Both are buried in the Borschiw cemetery, by the beautiful Borschiw Church. Their son-in-law, John Hrabec, my sister Eva's husband, was the headmaster in building the church in the 1940's.

Chomiak, Steve and Mildred

by Steve Chomiak

I was born December 25, 1913, in a new house my father had finished building that year. I was the second youngest of nine children. I attended the "Moscow" one-room school which was three-quarters of a mile away from where I live. The school was rebuilt to a two-room structure and in 1922 a hall, one mile east of the school, was built. It bears the same name as the school — Moscow. My father later bought the Schmid quarter. However, not only did I attend the school, but for a number of years I was the young janitor of the school. That meant that I had to get up in the early hours of the morning, walk three-quarters of a mile to school and have the school warm by the time the other children arrived. I had to clean it after school and my older sister, Sophie, and younger sister, Nellie, helped. For the janitor work I was paid four dollars a month.

My father was getting on in years. My oldest brother, Fred, was married and living on Schmid's land. My younger brother who had attended high school in Edmonton, got sick and passed away at the age of twenty-one. My father decided to take me out of school to help him farm. So at the age of 15 I was ploughing the old homestead and another quarter my father had bought, with eight horses and a triple plow and I did handle the job very well. My job was to be up early in the morning, have those horses fed, groomed and harnessed by seven o'clock.

I lived just across the road from Moscow Hall, which I mentioned earlier, and was janitor of it for seven years. Those were the happy years before T. V. and an odd radio. We had live theatre, singing and dancing practices and dances every week. The actors and actresses were the best this side of Hollywood. People walked for miles to come to the practices. Russel Goshko, who now resides in Vegreville, walked six miles to and from the hall to teach us to dance and sing in Ukrainian. He has a magnificent voice. Joe Nozak and his boys were the local musicians, followed by Emil Sadownyk and his band.

In 1938 I met and married Mildred Kondratiuk. She was born and raised in the Smoky Lake area. Our wedding broke the then long-time tradition of having the wedding at the house. Supper over, we, the bride

and groom and guests, went to Moscow Hall to dance. Since then people adopted the idea and made weddings in halls.

We were now the second generation to work on the old homestead and another quarter, which we call the C. P. R. even now. In 1936 we let a Mr. and Mrs. John Chernish run a country general store on our farm. In 1940 they decided to sell the store, so I bought it and ran the business for another two years and gave it up, as farming was more important. In 1950 I bought a quarter and a half that had only fifteen acres cleared. The rest was a forest that looked the same as in 1901. With hard work I cleared it all with a lot of help from my two older sons, who attended school and picked roots after school. We have five children — one daughter and four sons.

Our son John Willard was born in 1939. He attended our country school, Moscow, and graduated from high school in Mundare. He attended Mount Royal College, and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary and is an engineer. John's latest accomplishment has been to take over the lands I farmed. In addition to this he is Vice-President of Vinto Engineering, and is also in charge of business development for the company. He is also President of Building Owners and Managers Association of Canada, and President of Construction Specifications Canada. He is on the regional Advisory Council for the Federal Development Bank, and a director of Junior Achievement. He is also a member of: the Advisory Board to Heating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology at N.A.I.T.; the Ukrainian Professional and Business Men's Club; the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers; and the Masonic Lodge. He has run campaigns for the Progressive Conservatives in both federal and provincial elections. He is married to the former Cathie Turnbull of the Onoway area, who was employed at the Misericordia Hospital as a Medical Records Librarian. They have three children, Christine, Darlene and Karen.

Lawrence, our second son, was born in 1941, and attended first our country school and Mundare high school. He took schooling in Edmonton in mechanics and welding and is now a top-notch welder by trade. He married a neighbour's daughter, Vivian Powley. They have four children, Valerie, Darryl, Roseanne, and Lawry. They live in Edmonton.

Our daughter Evelyn Jo-Ann was born in 1943, attended our country school too, and graduated from Mundare high school. She took a secretarial course at Alberta College and was a secretary in a law firm before she married Ed Sherry. Evelyn is now employed by the University of Alberta and works at the

Cameron Library. Ed is the Assistant Manager of Cambrian Facilities Ltd., who are an engineering firm. They have three children, Rhonda, Robert and Ramona and they reside in Edmonton.

Melvin was born in 1944 and attended both Moscow and later the Mundare high school. He is now an Operations Supervisor at Inco's Computer Services Department in Thompson, Manitoba. He married a girl from Roblin, Manitoba, Sonia Serkopud, and they have three children, Debbie, Devin and Delvin.

Eugene, our youngest son, was born in 1946, went to the same school as his sister and brothers. He was foreman with Trans-Canada Pipelines and travelled extensively throughout Canada and the Northern United States. He is now a civil technologist with Whissel Enterprises, Edmonton. He married the former Susan Sokalski of Lavoy, who is employed as a secretary. They have two children, Sharon and Kevin, and now reside on an acreage near Sherwood Park.

As my parents before me, I did and do all my business in Vegreville and plan to retire there.

In 1976 our homestead was 75 years old, so to celebrate the happy occasion we had a "Homestead Party" at Moscow Hall. From those two people who came to Canada in 1901, we have 171 living descendants. Most of them came to the reunion, plus many friends and neighbours. My sister Eva's great-grandchild took part in the programme. Our Honourable Minister of Culture, Horst Schmid, was there plus more governmental dignitaries. We received a plaque from the Alberta government in honour of the occasion.

Sad to say, my youngest sister, Nellie Semchyshen, passed away in 1977. My oldest sister, Eva, who is 86, is now at the Vegreville Homestead Senior Citizens Home; my sister, Ann Hrabec lives at her home in Ryley; and my sister, Mary Kubin, being a widow for a long time, has retired from farming and lives in Vegreville. My brother Fred is 82, lives in Vegreville. I am still living and helping on the old homestead, but now our son John is the third-generation master of it.

God bless us all — the 171 living descendants from Matthew and Salomia Chomiak — we are a great family. I am proud to end my story with a tribute written to her great-grandparents, by my oldest grandchild, Rhonda Lynn Sherry.

Tribute

Enlightened, they arrived to fulfill a proposition
A proposition reflecting their justifiable future
Silently they observed
Wilfully they endured
And ambitiously they constructed

For theirs was not to question but accept
Because this was a culture of unique and desired
qualities

A culture of strength and magnitude; the Ukrainians.

Chomik, Nick and Family

On March 1, 1960, Nick Chomik was appointed as District Agriculturist to the Vegreville office. Prior to this date Nick and his family lived in Ryley where he served as District Agriculturist for fourteen years. In the summer of 1960, the Chomik family built a new home in Vegreville and by September 1 of that year Nick and Anne Chomik and their five children were comfortably located in their new home.

Upon arrival the children were soon enrolled in school, the oldest, Gary, was in Grade eleven, Fay was in Grade nine, Debbie in Grade three and the youngest, being twins, Trevor and Treena, were in kindergarten.

For the next few years while Nick was busily working on various agricultural programs as a District Agriculturist, his family was involved deeply in school work, and recreational activities. Gary, Fay and Debbie all excelled in basketball while Trevor and Treena became keenly involved in figure skating. For summer recreation the family became involved in showing horses. Nick purchased two American Saddlebred fillies, and Anne and daughters Debbie and Treena began exhibiting these horses at horse shows with much success. The result was that both girls became excellent equestrian riders, training their own horses and showing successfully at major shows in the province. The Chomiks have since become one of the top breeders of American Saddle horses in the province.

Educational careers were always highly regarded by the family. All five children attended university. Fay and Trevor obtained their degrees in education and are teachers by profession. Debbie and Treena are Dental Hygienists, having graduated from the University of Alberta School of Dental Hygiene. Gary, the oldest son, prefers the North Country, and spends much of his time working on Northern development projects.

In 1967, Fay married Val Felesky, a graduate from the Faculty of Commerce, University of Alberta, and they live in Medicine Hat. Val is in the Real Estate business while Fay is teaching. They have two children, Cameron and Leigh, and Grandpa Nick and Grandma Anne are most happy to have such adorable grandchildren.

In 1972, Debbie married Ken Gehring and they live in Sherwood Park. Ken is a Chemical Technologist, working with Alberta Research Council, while



Nick Chomik Family — in home backyard, 1969. (l. to r.) — Gary — the oldest son, Debbie, Fay, Anne and Nick — parents. Seated in front — Treena and Trevor (twins).

Debbie works for the Dental Division of the Leduc-Strathcona Public Health Unit.

Treena, a graduate Dental Hygienist, also works for the same Health Unit. In addition, Treena is a figure skating instructor.

In the summer of 1978, Trevor married Colleen Marcy of Grande Prairie. Colleen was a figure skater and that was how the two met. Colleen is also in the nursing profession. Both are now living at Wetaskiwin where Trevor is teaching school and figure skating and Colleen is working at the hospital as well as instructing figure skating.

As District Agriculturist, Nick spearheaded many agricultural programs and assisted many agricultural organizations with their activities. Being raised on the farm as a boy, his love for farming always remained with him. It is little wonder then, that he always managed to do a bit of farming on the side, as a complement to his profession as District Agriculturist.

Nick was born in the Two Hills district. It all started when his grandparents, Thomas Chomik and his family, emigrated from Ukraine in 1903 to a homestead ten miles east of Two Hills. As the family grew up, Nick's dad married Anne Zawadiuk, who also emigrated to the same area to live with her married sister. The two were married, started farming in the nearby neighborhood and raised a family of four girls and four boys. Nick's parents were hard-working farm people who spent all of their lives farming in the Two Hills area. His brothers and sisters, all of whom are still living, are William Chomik of Edmonton, Mike Chomik of Lloydminster, David Chomik of High Prairie, Mrs. Margaret Shopel of Edmonton, Mrs. Mary Petesky of Chilliwack, B.C., Mrs. George Zaharia of Mundare, and Mrs. Helen Petrosky of Chilliwack, B.C.

Nick's educational experiences and career have somewhat of a unique history. He completed Grade eight at Nizir School (this school was at one time located five miles east of Two Hills). Then, at the age of fourteen he went farming for two years, took his knocks, and decided to return to high school. He completed Grade twelve at Two Hills, then in 1942, entered the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Alberta. While at the University he had to maintain a high average in order not to get drafted by the Armed Forces, as he was there during the war years. While attending University he met Anne Repchuk who was working in Edmonton at that time. In 1943 they were married and in 1946 Nick graduated only to be appointed as a District Agriculturist in training at Vermilion. While there he taught at the Agricultural College during the winter of 1946-1947. Then in the spring of 1947 he was appointed as District Agriculturist at Ryley. From 1947 to 1960, he served actively in the Ryley district (County of Beaver) as District Agriculturist. Then in the spring of 1960 he was appointed District Agriculturist at Vegreville.

Anne was born in the Wasel district. Her dad, William Repchuk, emigrated as a young man from the Ukraine to Canada in the year 1914. Upon arrival, he met and married Rose Tkachuk, whose parents were prosperous farmers living fifteen miles north of Willingdon, which is known as the Wasel District. The newly married couple (Anne's parents) bought some land and were soon in the business of farming where they lived all their lives.

Within that time, they raised ten children, six boys and four girls. Eight out of the ten brothers and sisters live in Alberta and are quite progressive in their respective careers. The family consists of: Peter Repchuk of Edmonton, Andy Repchuk of St. Paul, William Repchuk of Edmonton, Nick Repchuk of Edmonton, Alex Repchuk of Yellow Knife, N.W.T., Tom Repchuk of Edmonton, Mrs. Mary Strynadka of Vernon, B.C., Mrs. Nellie Krowchuk of Edmonton, Mrs. Leona Koroluk of Edmonton, and Mrs. Anne Chomik of Vegreville.

Anne attended the Gold Creek School. Then upon completion of her school career, she obtained a job in Edmonton. She worked as a salesclerk for several years in Edmonton until she met Nick and the two were subsequently married. She always regarded the role of a housewife and mother to be the most important position, in which she excelled.

Clement Family

by Marion Clement Gourlay, Granddaughter of William and Lucy Clement

William Clement (1859-1936) and Lucy Chisholm (1860-1943) were married at Teeswater,

Ontario, August 13, 1879. They resided on a farm near Paisley, Bruce County, Ontario, until 1901 and then came west. Mr. Clement, of Irish and Scottish extraction, took part in the Gold Rush to the Yukon in 1898, later rejoining his family at Strathcona from where he operated a freighting business from Edmonton to Lloydminster, Saskatchewan until 1903. In that year the family removed to Old Vegreville, travelling by wagon — (the women by horse and buggy) — where he took up land and opened the general store. The store was moved, with other buildings, to the new town in 1905, and that year became the general store of “Clement and Sons” (Over the years the name ‘Clement’ has acquired an “S” of unknown origin.) at Vegreville. This business flourished for more than twenty years, and grew into a large department store with drygoods, groceries, men’s wear, ladies’ wear, children’s wear, shoes, china and glassware, employing numerous clerks and office staff. Today the few small-town stores of this calibre have been replaced by the modern self-serve supermarkets and ever-increasing small specialty shops. The store eventually became a large two-story white brick building with dental offices, the Masonic Hall and other suites of rooms on the upper floor. It stood on the south west corner of Main Street and 51 Avenue where the Beaver Block now stands, but burned to the ground about 1928 or 1929 shortly after the Clements had dissolved the business and sold the building to Charles Gordon, builder and contractor.

William Clement built his home on the corner directly south of the old brick public school (4709-49th Street). The school has since been demolished to make way for new school buildings. It was a hip-roofed frame building with a verandah across the front, and spacious hedged lawns.

On August 13, 1929, the Clements celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home with all their children and their families present. The

Observer comments at that time that there had been but four Golden Weddings celebrated in Vegreville or district in the preceding quarter century — Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lank, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hewer, Mr. and Mrs. John Stanton and Mr. and Mrs. William Clement. On this occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Clement were presented with a chesterfield suite by their many friends in the community. An added pleasurable event of the day was the marriage of their first-born grandchild, Berta Gazley, to Robert Harrison of Stettler, Alberta, both of whom taught high school in Medicine Hat until their retirement.

The tribute paid to William Clement by the aforementioned A. L. Horton upon the death of Mr. Clem-



Clements Store, 1906. On site of present 5¢ to \$1.00 Store. Mr. W. T. Clements (Elton's father) is second from left. Mr. William Clements (Elton's grandfather) is in doorway on right.



Inside of Clements Store, 1906.



Clement and Son Store, built in 1909. The brick structure replaced the frame store building moved from Old Vegreville in 1905. Later the brick building burned down, and was replaced by a frame building — present 5¢ to \$1.00 Store.

ent in 1936 is a vivid summary of the man. He wrote, "It seems fitting that one who was so prominent in this community in earlier years as the late William Clement should receive a personal tribute from myself. I knew him so intimately. I was so well aware of his devotion to the interests of the town and district in which he had cast his lot and I experienced so often his kindness and ready assistance when such assistance was needed, that it devolves on me to try to mention some salient facts of his life here.

"As the first Postmaster (1906), the first Chairman of the Public School Board (1905-1912), and the first full-term Mayor of the town (1906-1908), Mr. Clement contributed more than his share to the welfare of the whole community. In all his public work, he gave his best efforts to the town and district. Convinced that Vegreville would become an important centre both in trade and industry, he worked to that end faithfully. Nor were his efforts in vain. For he was instrumental in laying the foundations of the community and town most firmly and upon the work which he and others did in those early years, the solid superstructure of the town and district had been erected. In many other towns started about the same time as Vegreville, the efforts of high pressure real estate promoters resulted in disaster. Financial embarrassment set in and 'repudiation of debt' became the order of the day in later years. Not so with Vegreville. I believe it is true that the financial obligations of Vegreville have always been met; sometimes the taxpayers have fairly sweat blood in order to meet them — but they have been met. Perhaps I might say that Vegreville came within a whisker's width of getting into trouble too. But that was avoided, mainly by those who thought, with Mr. Clement, that there was such a thing as going too far. He always stopped to count the cost, and in my long association with him I found it very wise indeed to ascertain what he might think, say or do, before committing himself to any course of action.

"While Mr. Clement withdrew from active public life several years before his death, devoting his time to overseeing his farm interests at Imperial, he never lost his interest in it. At municipal and school meetings we could depend on him to be there with some heart-searching questions which, I must admit were sometimes most aggravating, but behind them every time, was his sound common sense. He was a large taxpayer and he wanted to know all about anything before he let himself in for any more taxes. And it wasn't a matter of pennypinching. Once convinced that a matter was worthwhile, he would support it, irrespective of cost to himself. Moreover, he wasn't very difficult to convince either, if talked to by

people in whom he had confidence and on whose judgment he placed reliance.

"All men who are leaders in any respect — and William Clement was a leader in many — have to be strong-minded and able to express themselves vigorously and to the point. He could do both. I had many a run-in with him over various matters from time to time, but we always fixed 'em up eventually, with everybody happy, and a workable compromise effected. Sometimes he yielded; sometimes I yielded here and there. Nobody was hurt and in the long run, the compromises worked. Our imaginary leaders of today might take a lesson from this point.

"Referring now to his semi-public activities, Mr. Clement was for years prominent in political matters. A strong Liberal in politics, he held for many terms the presidency of Liberal associations, local, provincial and federal constituencies. In later years he relinquished these positions of his own volition, but he took great pride in his political associations.

"Outside of politics, I might refer to the way in which Mr. Clement backed up sporting activities. When he was in business here I never knew of a sporting organization appealing to him for help which was not immediately forthcoming. Lots of times he knew that his five-spot or ten-spot was just being wasted, but he produced the cash without hesitation and wished them all good luck. Outside of curling, he never participated in sporting events, but he could see how the younger people enjoyed themselves and he was more than willing to help out. He loved young people.

"Curling was his sport. I am not at all outside the mark when I say that for some ten years Mr. Clement carried the Curling Club on his back. True, there were lots of other names on the note, but his name carried the weight to make the note get by at the bank. Without laboring the point, I might say that curling in Vegreville would have had a tough time to survive except for his support. Up until the season of 1934-35, he was among the most active and ready of all the curlers. He put the younger men to shame by his attention to draws and the like. And he was certainly a dangerous opponent to meet on keen ice.

"For years he was a director of the Agricultural Society and the succeeding Exhibition Association. To this work he gave the same attention as to the other public services in which he took part. There was nothing half-hearted about William Clement when he undertook any duty.

"His religious affiliations were Baptist but when the Vegreville Baptist congregation ceased to exist, he kept up his church-going faithfully, usually giving his adherence to the Presbyterians. Sunday to him was the Lord's Day, and he observed it in all its

decorum and dignity. We are told that 'Faith without work is dead'. Mr. Clement backed up his faith by plenty of work, striving most sincerely for the betterment of others."

Behind him, of course, was the steady and solid support of a loving and devoted wife. Lucy Clement was a strong character. She believed in the slogan, "Work, study and save", and she did all three expertly. She was profoundly interested in education and anxious that all her children get the most schooling available. She herself had been a teacher and instilled in her children the desire to learn. She was a woman of great wisdom and her sound advice was sought and cherished by many. She was an ardent worker in the Baptist Church, having worked closely with Mrs. John Gainer, one of the founders of the Strathcona Baptist Church, while she had lived in Edmonton. She was also a steadfast supporter of the W.C.T.U. movement, holding executive office in that association, clinging steadfastly to her convictions, and firm in her expressions of what she believed was right and wrong.

William and Lucy Clement had five children all born in Paisley, Ontario. The eldest, William Thomas ("W.T." - 1880-1950) was 23 years old with a young bride of 21, Bertha Reid of Strathcona, when he joined his parents to set up store-keeping at Vegreville. Previous to this time, his purpose in life had been to hold the family together while his father had gone to the Gold Rush. He, like his father, served on the early town council and was active in the Masonic Lodge. He was the 204th Shriner to become a member of the Al Azhar Temple, Calgary. Unlike his father, he was of a retiring nature and shunned publicity of any kind. Generous to a fault, he was one of those quiet but invaluable men whose dedication to the development of his community and whose response to affairs of social conscience make him worthy of note.

His home was the red brick house on 50th Avenue West, 1½ blocks west of Main Street, originally occupied by W. P. Perkins, Manager of the Bank of Commerce.

"W. T." Clement had three sisters — Laura (Mrs. Bert Gazley); Pearl (Mrs. Charles Gordon, later Mrs. W. Scitzmier and still later Mrs. Fred Richardson); and Ruby (Mrs. Chester D. Gainer) who in 1915 was to become the first woman to be admitted to the Alberta Bar, the same year that women were granted the franchise. Ruby and Pearl taught school in the Edmonton area in their early lives, but all lived in Vegreville at some time, Ruby moving to Edmonton and Laura to Eastern Canada (later to Victoria, B.C.) when they married.

Pearl Clement and her husband Charles Gordon

lived for years kitty-corner from her parents, finally building the large bungalow that occupied the full corner property (4802-49th Street) which had been their original grounds. Charles Gordon's distinguished life works would fill a whole book itself. His lumber business expanded into building and contracting and he owned and operated a large sash and door factory, employing many men. Later he added a plumbing and tinsmith business.

Many of the hospitals, homes and buildings in the surrounding towns were built by Charles Gordon. He became one of the town's most influential citizens, serving terms as early town councillor and Mayor. His active political career as a Liberal came to an abrupt stop in 1935 when Social Credit swept the country. He died in the 30's while still a young man.

"W. T.'s" only brother, James Chisholm (1889-1961) commonly known as "Chis", was the youngest member of the family. Although he worked with the firm of "Clement & Son" for several years, he was never a partner, but set up his own independent grocery store in 1921. It was situated on the west side of Main Street one block south of "Clement & Son". "Chis" built his home at 4334-49th Street, in Mount Pleasant, which at the time seemed out of town. He made an extensive hobby of band and Ham radio, retiring to Vancouver in 1944.

"Chis" Clement married Charlotte Gould (1891-1951), daughter of Protestant missionaries, Alfred and Janet Gould, who had gone from their native England to South Africa, settling in Vegreville in 1905. Lottie was born in Kuruman, in Bechuanaland, South Africa, in the house originally built and occupied by David Livingstone. It was while employed in the office of "Clement & Son" that she met and subsequently married "Chis". (Her sister Kate later married A. L. Horton of Vegreville.)

"Chis" and Lottie had two daughters. Ruth (1915-) and Joyce (1923-), both born in Vegreville. (See photo p. 433.)

Ruth married Frank N. Cox of Montreal, P.Q., an electrical engineer. They live in Tsawwassen, B.C. and have two sons.

Joyce married Arthur McCall of Vancouver, B.C. and later Angus Black of Vancouver. She has three children and 2 grandchildren, and lives in Ganges on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Both girls had long active musical careers. Ruth, an Associate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, is still teaching music today (1979). Both girls served in the R.C.A.F. for three years during World War II.

The Clement family was a very colorful one, and no history of Vegreville would be complete without mention of the talented wife of "W.T.", Bertha Reid, for she made a great contribution to the cultural

development of the town. One of Alberta's leading musical figures for more than half a century, she passed away in 1970 at the age of 88. The Observer at that time noted,

"A violin and piano graduate before she was 20, Bertha Reid Clement came to Edmonton with her parents, the late John W. and Charlotte Reid, in 1900. She was born in North Dakota and received her early musical education in Michigan.

"Before her marriage she was organist for three years at the original Metropolitan United church on 84th Avenue in Strathcona, and taught music in the city. Later in Vegreville she entered a community music field practically unmatched in Alberta. Heavy demands were made upon her talents for all and every occasion requiring music and she was most generous with those talents, for in the early days there were no radios, nor T.V.'s and very few cars. Entertainment had to be of the homemade variety.

"Holding degrees of A.T.C.M. and L.R.S.M. Mrs. Clement was a teacher, performer and composer. She served as a musical festival adjudicator throughout the province, and instructed hundreds of children and adults in operettas, choirs, concerts and musical degree programs. In addition she was a community leader in the arts, handicrafts and homemaking. She was a Regent of the Major Fane Chapter of the I.O.D.E., a life member of the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Oldtimers' Association, and organist and choir leader of the Vegreville United Church for more than forty years. She was a founder of the Vegreville Art Club, one of the first community art centres in the province."

Mrs. Clement provided a high quality of choral leadership seldom found in small centres. Her music struck an atmosphere of reverent devotion, often remarked upon by the appreciative congregation. Mrs. Clement, a deeply religious woman, considered this her personal contribution to her church and would never accept one cent of pay for her services. A stranger attending church one Sunday evening, impressed with the music, asked her later where the organ pipes were concealed. She laughed and explained it was only a reed organ which she pumped with her feet. He was amazed at the variety of effects she was able to achieve on a simple reed organ.

W. T. Clement and his wife Bertha had three children — Lorraine, the first baby born to English speaking parents at Old Vegreville in 1904. Marion (1908-) and Elton (1911-) were born in the new town.

All three children received their public and high school education in Vegreville, and all three attended the University of Alberta.

Lorraine became a registered nurse. She married

W. F. Wilson (1900-1967) of Innisfail, B.Sc. in Agriculture, and retired to Coquitlam, B.C. Her hobby is her home and lovely garden.

Marion, a graduate of The Camrose Normal School and the University of Alberta, is also an Associate of The Toronto Conservatory of Music. Before her marriage to Dr. W. N. Gourlay, F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., of Lacombe (1902-1951), she taught in the Vegreville High School. She followed her mother's musical bent, and her work in training school choruses for festivals is well-remembered, for she added a new dimension to school choruses when she utilized high school students in 4-part harmony.

The Gourlays had one daughter, Betty (1945-), who graduated from The University of Alberta with a B. Sc. in Nursing, now (1979) pursuing post-graduate work in orthopaedic nursing at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

After the death of her husband, Marion returned to the University of Alberta as an administrative assistant in the Department of Art and Design, a position she held until her retirement in Edmonton.

While at university, Elton was interested in genetics and animal husbandry which studies served him in good stead on his stock farm. Elton has remained in Vegreville. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mona Casson, daughter of Thomas and Susan Casson who settled in Vegreville in 1912. Mona received her teacher training at the Edmonton Normal School, holds an A.T.C.M. degree in music and taught school in Vegreville until her retirement. She and Elton, now also retired from farming, are recently settled in a new home in town.

Elton and Mona Clement had two children — Monelle (1944-) and Graydon (1947-), both born in Vegreville.

Monelle, a Para-Legal Assistant in Vancouver, is married to Eugene Zaruby, Barrister and Solicitor, who has his own law firm in Delta, British Columbia. They had two daughters, Andrea Lynne (1976-), and Krista Leeanne (1979-).

Graydon is married to Karen Bienvenue of Vegreville. They had their first child, Kendra Laurie, in 1978. Graydon is a food buyer for Woodward's Food Stores in Alberta. They are settled in a new completely modern home in Leduc.

None of William and Lucy Clement's five children are living today but 12 of their 15 grandchildren remain plus 30 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren. Their grandson Elton Morley Clement is their sole survivor living in Vegreville today (1979).

That courageous spirit and determination necessary to achieve a common good, exemplified so clearly in the lives of these dedicated early town

builders, serves us all today, as it did then. Through the example set by our forefathers we too hope to be able to make a meaningful contribution to our communities and our country.

Coams, Samuel and Gertrude by Hazel (Coams) Riddell

My father, Samuel Coams, and my mother, Gertrude, arrived in Vegreville in 1906 and lived there for 39 years. My dad had been a carpenter and manager of a lumber yard in Coulee City, Washington. He'd heard a friend of his father, Mr. Davis, who had a homestead east of Vegreville, tell of the new province of Alberta and good land available. As a result Mom and Dad came north and filed on a homestead 20 miles east in the same area where Mr. Davis had settled with his family.

My parents lived in Vegreville before moving to the homestead and I was born January 22, 1907, in the R.M.B. Hospital, with Dr. Rush attending. I was told that I was the first baby born there. I know my birth was recorded in the Vegreville Observer because thirty years later I was enabled to get my birth certificate because of that entry — when other means failed.

After I was born, we moved to the homestead. In season my dad worked at the carpenter trade in Vegreville and Viking. He drove a buggy and little team of drivers called Button and Tessie and was sometimes gone for two weeks. Then, Mom and I and a faithful dog, stayed alone. Mother had many frightening times. One time the dog got his foot in a bear trap and another time a prairie fire just missed the house which was built of logs with a sod roof. We had a cow and some chickens and wild ducks. Our dog was a good retriever. Mother had many lonely hours and in later years when the wind whispered through the trees, it reminded her of those early days alone.

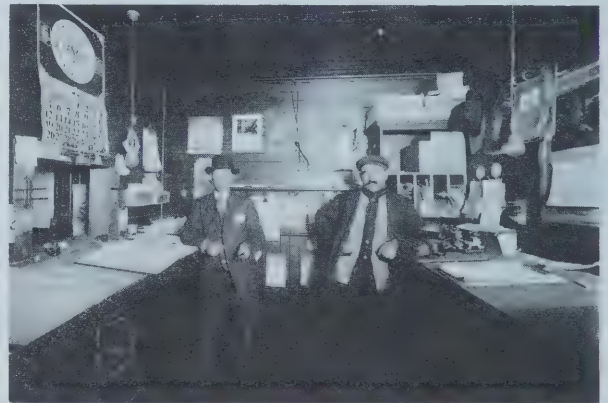
When the homestead was 'proved up' we moved back to Vegreville. My dad became manager of the Globe Lumber Company and later of the Alberta Lumber next to Tom Casson's Meat Market where he remained for 16 years. He was also a contractor and built several homes in and around the town. Three brick buildings in Vegreville, that he was the contractor for, were the Town Hall, with the big bell that gonged, (I wonder where it is), the Baptist Church, and the Separate School. When we acquired a 'tin lizzy', the family went along in the evening to see how the carpenters were managing. In later years Dad was in business with Peter Svarich, on the street that ran south past the public school.

Mom and Dad had seven children. Rob, next after me, was born in 1911 with Dr. Field as attendant. In 1913 Herb arrived with Dr. Herb Monkman attending (Dr. Monkman was killed in the first World War). He had a brother who was a dentist in town for many years. The rest of the children were delivered by Dr. R. M. Reid as were two of my sons.

My two-and-a-half-year-old brother, Clare, died in 1917 in an epidemic of cholera infantum which took several small children that year.

In 1918 my father bought a quarter-section of land across the road from the town limits on the east. It was also across the road from what became the exhibition grounds. I remember Wop May landing his plane there during fair time. I liked living on the farm because we had horses to ride and the Vermilion River just below the house.

In the second winter we spent on the farm, 1919-1920, the weather was the most severe of the decade and resulted in great difficulty for many district farmers.



Sam Coams and Pete Kulmatycki in Alberta Lumber office, 1912.



Verda Dean and Hazel Coams in Wop May's plane, about 1922.

The previous summer there had been a drought in southern Alberta and cattlemen had to sell their stock in very poor condition at whatever the market could pay. Farmers in the north were encouraged to buy them and feed them over winter to get them in good condition for sale at a profit later.

Many went into debt to buy them and cover the costs. Although my Dad worked for the Alberta Lumber, he bought about a dozen Angus cows, bought feed and hired a man to work on the farm (we had only a few acres under cultivation). That winter snow was deep, spring came late, straw had to be dug out of the snow and hauled for miles. Straw cost \$20 per ton. I can't remember what hay sold for but it became very scarce. An expected profit turned into a loss which many farmers had not recovered from, by depression days. The only farmers that could stand this were those who didn't have to borrow money to begin with.

In 1928 a frost hit our area. Wheat sold for 28½¢ a bushel. This was followed by a complete hail-out the next year, followed by a couple years of light rainfall. Financially my Dad, husband and neighbours didn't recover. In the next few years their land was taken over by banks and loan companies. Some left for the USA; we left to homestead in Athabina.

Several lodges were organized early in Vegreville's time. My dad belonged to the Masons in 1908; the Knights of Pythias in 1912. He belonged to the Odd Fellows and the Al Azhar Shrine. Mom was a charter member of the Eastern Star.

My parents have passed away now; by father died at 89 years in 1968, and my mother lived to be 91 and died in 1975. Like most of the early settlers they had come many miles to become Canadians. My dad was born in Missouri, my Mom in Kansas. They met in Muskogee, Indian Territory (later the state of Oklahoma).

My first teacher was Miss Strong and some of my classmates were Verona and Fiona McIntyre, Flossie Stewart and Ted Horton. We spent the first four grades in the public school; took grades five and six in the Presbyterian church, and went across the CN tracks for grades seven and eight in a school that had been called "The English School for Foreigners".

When our class was ready for grade nine, it was held in the third floor assembly hall of the brick school until the high school was finished in 1921. The teachers that year were Harry Clark, Mabel Poole, (who passed away while teaching there), and Ada Wright. They were remarkable teachers, only appreciated as the years went by. Four of my closest friends were Anita Gordon, Sarah Shaw, Lois Trimble, and Eva Little. Only two of us are left.

Out of high school I went to the Camrose Normal



*Visit of Rt. Wor. Bro. Jamieson
D. D. G. M.*

and Banquet

St. John's Lodge, No. 25, G. R. A.

A. F. & A. M.

Vegreville, Alberta

January 26th. 1908

1908 invitation to St. John's Lodge No. 25.

School in 1924-25 which had been my goal since I was little, as I always loved teaching. My first school of happy memories was Imperial No. 893, eleven miles SE of Vegreville and my first inspector was Owen Williams. I think Mrs. Nelson Muntz was the first teacher.

Gladys Burkholder, a Lavoy girl, taught in the next district called "Mayflower". Today she is Mrs. Harvey Doherty and lives in Westlock. We have been friends for more than 50 years and sometimes reminisce about old times. She said once when she needed wood at the school, she was brought a load of green poles and bucksaw. Recalling those times brings nostalgic memories of Christmas concerts, box socials, church, picnics and dances with a fine community of resourceful and cooperating people. That first school and the people stand most clearly in my thoughts. After a couple of years at Imperial I got a school at Ridgepark which was nearer home. In those days we worked long hours for a year and didn't receive as much money as teachers today get in a month. But we were rewarded in other ways, by intimately knowing our pupils and their parents, and of course there is no comparison between the costs of living. There I met Billie Riddell whom I later married. He had come to the area in 1908 from Galetta, Ontario, in the Ottawa Valley, where his great-grandfather had settled in 1822. His first work animals were a yoke of oxen, patient, toiling beasts but when they came to a slough and it was hot, with flies and mosquitoes pestering, they dragged whatever they

were pulling into the water and sometimes lay down. One time they pulled a load of posts in and got stuck. Bill said he had to carry the poles out through the mud, get the oxen out, and reload the posts. He said that was when he lost his religion the first time.

After a few years he became secretary-treasurer of the Municipality of Patricia No. 485, which he held for 18 years until 1932.

In 1933 we joined a community of people from the Vegreville area who had taken homesteads across the Pembina River from Flatbush — Fred Richardson who had arrived in Vegreville in 1907, Col. Hughes, Frank Hornby, Wilmot Ruttan, Mr. Morris, and others who were related, such as F. McLean who was married to Edna Richardson's sister. Ties with Vegreville remained strong and we looked forward to receiving the Observer.

Our district was named Athabina after the two rivers: the Athabasca and the Pembina nearby. In 1949 Bill and I moved to Pibroch where I still reside. We had three sons, their wives and twelve grandchildren. My husband died in 1978 at 92 years of age. Some Vegreville friends were present at his funeral.

Vegreville will always be dear to my heart and I follow its events and accomplishments with pride.

Cole, George and Eva **by Eva Cole**

My husband, George Cole, was born in Hardwick, Minnesota, and came as a small boy with his parents, Merton and Sarah Cole, two brothers and two sisters, to take up homesteads in Alberta. Roy Cole, one of the brothers, is the only surviving member of that family.

I've been told that the family, along with Willis Cole, Ezra Cole, Tierneys, Trenhailes and Leaches accompanied by Grandfather, George Cole, came in September, 1900, and stopped over in South Edmonton and were greeted by an early September snow-storm.

Grandfather Cole had come previously and located homesteads for his sons and sons-in-law. He made a very good choice as all the land proved to be very fertile. Merton Cole's (George's father's homestead) was located where old Vegreville now stands. A small house was built for the time being. It was added to later when a two-storey log house was built. It was very sturdy and comfortable and was occupied till a few years ago by George and Lorna Hoggins and family. They now have a modern home. Lorna is Roy and Agnes Cole's daughter and it is gratifying to know that the land homesteaded by Grandfather Merton Cole remains in the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Cole were very kind people and accommodated many travellers passing through in

early days. Mother Cole acted as a practical nurse and helped both Dr. Rush and Dr. Arthur nurse their patients back to health. She even took sick people into her home to give them extra care.

Mother Cole passed away in 1943 of a heart attack. Grandpa Cole passed away in 1947.

George attended Old Vegreville school, which was built as soon as there were enough students to occupy a teacher. I am sure he was a good student and he always had a great respect and fondness for teachers which proved to be lucky for me.

As was the custom then, he left school in his teens to help on the farm. As George grew older he managed to acquire land of his own three miles west of Old Vegreville. It was slowly broken up and brought into production. He more or less bached there. This farm was just across the road from the Leach farm and I know George had many meals with Aunt Etta Leach, Mr. Leach and John.

I was born at a small town in Nova Scotia with the strange name of D'Escousse. It was named after a French General. My mother was French Acadian and my father Irish Canadian. Being a school teacher he insisted we learn French as well as English and I can truly say that it has been of inestimable value to me both in school and in later life.

In our family, education was considered as important as food and we all, my brother, sister and I, went through high school. I was destined to be the teacher. I attended Teachers' Training School in Truro, N.S., and then taught for one year in our home town for the salary of \$300.

About that time a well-known School Inspector, Mr. J. J. LeBlave, also a Nova Scotian, came to our vicinity to recruit teachers for the Edmonton area where there was a shortage of teachers, especially bilingual ones. My friend, Yvonne LeBlave, who was pure French, and I decided to be adventurous and try Alberta for a year at least. We were also offered a large salary of \$780.00 per year (not month).

My first school was at Morinville, just about 20 miles north of Edmonton. All my pupils were French. My friend went to teach at Lamoureux near Fort Saskatchewan. We were lonely at first but met at least once a month in Edmonton, laughed and cried and consoled each other.

We spent the first summer holidays at Summer School in Edmonton and got acquainted with teachers from all over the Province.

I came to Vegreville in 1917 to teach at the Old Vegreville School and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Merton Cole. I met all the Cole connections, little thinking I would become one of them. The two Cole daughters, Cecile and Myrtle, were about my age

and also teachers, having schools away from home. They spent many weekends at home and we became good friends. Roy left for overseas at that time. George was farming but also visited often and we became better acquainted.

I returned to Montreal where my parents were now living and spent a year working in an Advertising Office, being paid \$10 a week.

In 1920 I returned to Alberta and taught in the Park Grove School. At Park Grove I met some wonderful people, also brilliant students. I had the privilege of staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Jennings whose friendliness and warmth made me feel at home.

In 1921 George and I were married in Edmonton and lived for a year on a farm in the Lavoy district which George and Roy had rented hoping to harvest a big crop. That was a very dry year and the returns were small.

We moved to our farm in the Leachville district in April of 1922 and lived there for 38 years. The people in Leachville and Alida district were very friendly and helpful. We had a good life there to raise our two children, Betty and Larry, who both attended Leachville School and High School in Vegreville, having to board away from home as school buses were not yet in operation.

We women formed a branch of the Women's Institute in 1935 — with Mrs. Robert Jonas as President and Eva Cole as secretary. We enjoyed our monthly meetings in each other's homes very much.

We joined the men in working towards building a Community Hall which became well-known as Alida Hall, named after our well-known and loved pioneer Grandmother Alida Cole. She also donated the land for the building. We enjoyed working together while building Alida Hall and felt we had accomplished something when it was finally ready for use. We had many happy gatherings there and were always glad to welcome friends from Vegreville as it was a means of getting to know each other better.

A great event in our farm life was when we got electric power in 1945. What a pleasure to have a refrigerator and electric washer, as well as small appliances.

Our children are married with families of their own. Betty and her husband Bob Pederson live in Edmonton and have four children, three married and one fourteen-year-old son, Donald, still in school.

Larry and his wife Marian have Terry who is eighteen and attending University in Saskatoon. Melody is sixteen and finishing High School in Lloydminster where Larry is employed by Husky Oil.

George's health had never been robust and his

strength was declining, so in 1954 we rented the farm but continued to live there as we both enjoyed country life. He suffered a series of strokes in 1959 and passed away November 28, 1959. Needless to say, it was hard to carry on alone. I then moved to town and am still in my own home where I lead a contented, if sometimes, lonely life. I have many hobbies such as reading and gardening in summer and am kept busy in winter knitting afghans, sweaters, mitts and socks for my six grandchildren and friends.

The children visit as often as they can and I am always glad to welcome friends for a game of cards, a chat and a cup of tea.

Cole, Roy

Roy O'Neill Cole was born in Minnesota in 1897; he was brought to Vegreville area by his parents Merton W. Cole and Sarah (nee Yarding) where they settled on the homestead (SW 2-52-15) in what is now called the Old Vegreville district. The Mert Cole family, arriving here in the fall of 1900, consisted of Roy's older siblings: George (who later farmed nearby and married Eva Heinz); sister Cecil (m. Nicholson); Myrtle (m. Collison and farmed nearby); and Walter (born here, died in 1908). Roy recalls that his grandfather was the first of their clan to see this area, when he came here from Minnesota in 1898 and at that time filed on homesteads for his family. After 1900, Mert's brother, Willis migrated with his family, followed by Leach, Trenhaile and Tierney, who all settled nearby. They came by rail to Strathcona, then by wagon to their homesteads; bringing household effects, horses, cattle and machinery. At first, the Mert Cole family lived in a tent, then in a small lumber shack which was improved with a sturdy log addition in 1903. This building, remodelled, served as a home for many years. It was also used by Roy and his family when they moved there in 1932, and later by Hoggins' until it was retired. In 1979, this original Cole home was still standing on the Old Vegreville farm.

Recalling his youth in the little prairie settlement, Roy, as a toddler, played on the lumber pile with his dog until that lumber went to build the shack. There was a lot of activity around the Cole place, as most of the village was located on Mert's farm between their house (now George Hoggins farmstead) and the Waskawa creek which angled toward the north-east across their farm. Mert soon started a store with George Abbot, facing what is now Holden Road; he also had a barber shop in the back of George Robertson's machine shop. Other buildings, in the growing village of Vegreville, were: restaurant and livery barn, operated by Winfield Wilson; implement shop,

A. M. Thompson; blacksmith shop, Scotty Anderson; stopping place, Jim Cameron; and a store, operated by Charles Spence — all these on Mert's land, facing west toward Holden Road. Still on Cole farm, but facing south toward the creek, were: the jail, tended by Oscar Chiswell (also a butcher); Doctor Rush, residence and office; Methodist minister, Reverend Argue; teacher's house, owned by Charles Cameron; and the police shack occupied at times by Pete More and Tommy Nichols who, Roy thinks, were members of the North-West Mounted Police. Across Holden Road was the Lambert place, and at the crossroad the Poulins had located since 1894; Joseph Poulin, an original settler, had a large home used as a stopping place; his son Eugene ran a store and post office. The Hawthorn Hotel was built on the south-east corner of the crossroad. The first fair was held in a pasture west of the corner. Roy remembers that his grandfather (George Sr.) was killed in 1904 by a run-away team. Roy also recalls his first smoke; when he was sent to call Pete More to dinner (a bachelor, Policeman More ate at the Cole home), the older man thought it a joke to offer the kid a few puffs of his pipe; Roy got so sick he neither smoked nor ate for some time afterward.

Roy started school at about the age of seven in the Old Vegreville school, about three-quarters of a mile south of his home; his first teacher was Mr. Lawrence. Roy's first fight was with a schoolmate, Eddie Sandercock; Dr. Goodwin, driving by, happened to see the battle and reported the lads. Being as it was the last day of the term, however, they got little punishment; then. However, next term, Teacher Lawrence remembered and strapped both boys! Some other classmates were: Gladys and Muriel



Pioneer home built in 1903, on the original Old Vegreville site. Mr. Cole's family is in the picture. They were the original settlers. Note the details of construction of the house.

Thompson (later subsequently married Nick McIntyre); Della and Allie Pelletier (later married John Paquette); Wilmot and Alec Wilson; Baxandalls and Forcades. Another teacher was Annie Doyle who later became a nun.

Roy remembers Gilbert Williams (Mert Cole's brother-in-law) homesteaded on the farm now occupied by Robert Robert. Williams became so incensed when his balky horse refused to cross Waskawa creek that he tried to drown the beast. Williams later died of a broken neck incurred in a run-away (with the same horse?). His oldest daughter married Pete More, who was later killed in World War I.

Roy Cole joined the 151st Battalion on January 1, 1916; other locals included: Herb Shaw, Carl Welton (killed the last day of the war), Willis Tierney, Frank Dunaway, Jimmy Watson, Jack Bednall, Jack MacDonald, Town Secretary Woods, School Teacher Tillson, Billy Derpak, Wager, Johnny Ryan, Pat Callahan, Don Eaton, Fred Smith, Charlie Ashley, Charlie Rattray Sr., Jack Westcott, Nels Lane, Rod Dunn, Bill Johnson, Ivan Hepburn, Ole Harmon, and Mike Greville. These men trained in Vegreville at the Armories (site of present Centennial Building); they were then billeted around town and compared notes about the fare offered. Roy returned from overseas in February, 1919. In 1922, he married Agnes ("Jack") Bremner whose father was a section-foreman for the CNR Camrose line from 1911. Roy and his wife farmed in the ensuing years and raised one daughter, Lorna (Hoggins). In 1937 they began dairy farming with Jerseys on the old Cole homestead. This continued as a family enterprise until 1977, although Roy and Agnes have lived in semi-retirement for several years in their comfortable home north of town (NE 10-53-14).

Roy has been active in the community all his life; his special interests include the Vegreville Legion, B.P.O. Elks, Vegreville Exhibition Association for more than fifty years; and in all of these, Roy was honored with Life Membership. He was also active in the local telephone company and was Secretary of Old Vegreville School District No. 44 for numerous terms. Roy is one of the few remaining pioneers of the old settlement and he is a fund of information and lively anecdotes of the early days.

One of Roy's favorite tales concerns frontier law. At old Vegreville, the small pole shack, formerly Oscar Chiswell's butcher shop, had been pressed into use as the "jail". Therein, one cold night, a prisoner was confined and padlocked in by Constable More, who thereupon retired to his own hut nearby. As the night grew cooler, so did the prisoner, and, finding the jail roof in disrepair, he made an opening and

crawled out onto the frosty prairie. Then he made for the only refuge he knew thereabouts — the RNWMP quarters. Imagine the surprise of Constable More when he woke next morning to find his prisoner curled up next to him in his cozy bed.

Cole, Willis and Carrie

by Marvel (Cole) Beaudry

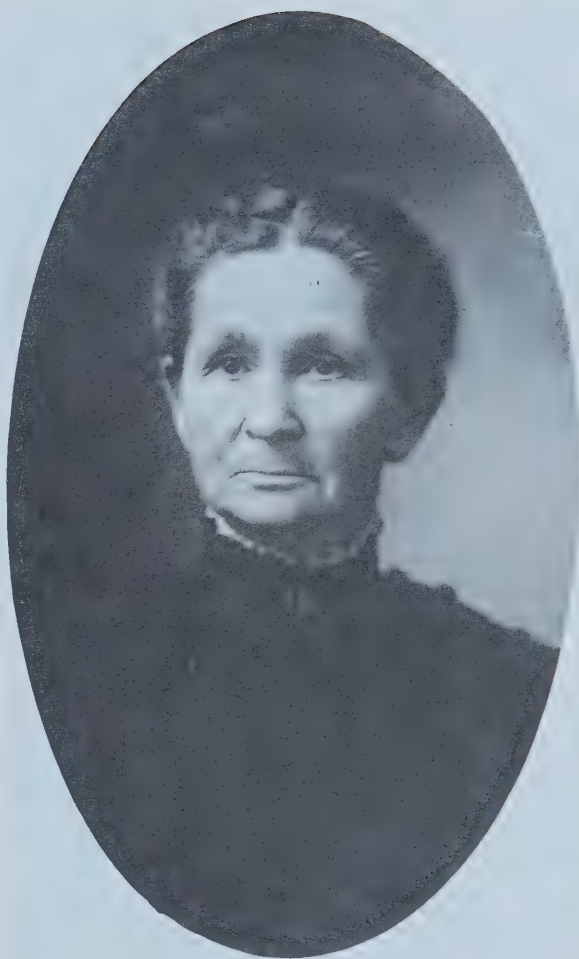
My Grandfather, George L. Cole came to the Old Vegreville district from Rock County, Minnesota, in 1898 and took up homesteads for his sons, sons-in-law and for himself. The sons were Willis Cole and wife Carrie, Merton Cole and wife Sarah, Ezra Cole and wife Kate. Sons-in-law were Henry Trenhaile and wife Nellie Cole (Willis' twin sister), Ezra Leach and wife Etta Cole, Tom Tierney and wife Inez Cole. There also was a daughter Stella Cole who died in her teens.

All homesteads were in the district now known as the Alida district, named after my Grandmother, Alida Cole, wife of George L. Cole. Grandma Cole lived to be 94 years old. Grandpa Cole was killed in a runaway accident in 1904 at age 64. He was born in New York.

My dad, Willis Cole, married Caroline Crossman in Luverne, Minnesota, U.S.A., on September 2, 1899. Dad came on first and Mother followed the next spring to their homestead. They built the first frame house for many miles around. Dad was an energetic farmer and acquired quite a lot of land as the years went by. There were three children in our family. Lemuel, Kenneth (who died in his teens) and Marvel (me). Lemuel and Dad farmed together, Lemuel having the land just across the road east of our homestead land. Dad was also an excellent horseman and raised many beautiful horses, the matched sorrel teams of Belgians being his greatest pride, especially when they were hitched to the grain tanks during threshing.



Well-known Vegreville pioneers (l. to r.) — Merl Thomas, Oscar Johnson, and Willis Cole, 1955.



Mrs. Alida Cole — came to Vegreville district 1900. Alida Hall is built on their homestead and is named after her.

Dad was of small build but a hard worker, as anyone found out who tried to keep up to him. He and my uncles used to freight lumber from Strathcona to Vegreville and Lloydminster in the winter. While Dad was away, Mother used to entice many prairie chickens into the granary, close the door quickly and there they were when Dad came home, ready to be killed. Dad did a lot of community work and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone. They remained on the farm until 1948, when they moved to Vegreville.

Dale Cole (Lemuel's oldest son) took over the farm. Mother passed away in 1956 after many years of sickness. Dad suffered a stroke in 1962, and although disabled, he lived with us until his last year (spent at Vegreville Auxiliary Hospital) where he passed away at the age of 90, in 1966.

My brother, Lemuel Cole, was born in Vegreville in 1902 and lived there all his life. He was mainly a grain farmer but later on acquired a fine herd of



Women of a pioneer clan; (l. to r.) Etta Leach, Sarah Cole, Carrie Cole, Kate Cole, Nell Trenhaile. Sitting (l. to r.) Myrtle (Cole) Collison, Alida Cole, Pearl (Trenhaile) Atkinson, 1930's.

registered Jerseys. He was also Director of the Vegreville Exhibition Board, trustee of St. Martin's Catholic Church and an official of the Elks. Sharing in his many activities was his wife, the former Louise Barrie. They had four children, Dale, Terry, Carol and Marian. Dale and his wife Molly have four sons, Daryl, Kevin, Grant and Curtis. Terry and his wife (Marion Burger) have two sons, Randall, married to Laurene Suddaby, and Cameron, Sports editor with the **Edmonton Journal**. They live in Edmonton. Carol lives in Calgary, was married to Harry Wyss who died after an operation. She has one son, Robin, who is married to Heather Clark. Carol is now Mrs. Andy Wasyluk. Marian, a registered nurse, is married to Paul O'Rierdan of Whitecourt and they have two daughters, Shannon and Diane. Lemuel and Louise were highly respected and loved and were sadly missed when they passed away; Lemuel in 1962 and Louise in 1976.

Dale and his sons farm the original homestead as well as other land acquired by Lemuel and my Dad. Dale also has registered Jersey cattle and supplies milk to the town of Vegreville. Both Dale and Terry were active in the United Church. Dale still is, but Terry had to forego all his business ventures in Vegreville, and there were many, because of his eyesight, the result of a boyhood injury. Terry had the Vegreville Land Company and Insurance and Travel Agency, etc. Both Dale and Terry were Exhibition Directors. Both Dale and Terry played in a dance band in Vegreville for several years as young lads.

I (Marvel) am happily married to Eugene Beaudry who was employed for many years by Edmonton Telephones, and is now retired. We have one son, Barry, a Sales Consultant for an Edmonton firm. He lives on an acreage west of Edmonton. I graduated from Vegreville High School and Camrose Normal



Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cole on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1949.



Marvel Cole and Glen Shaw, 1917.

School and taught school for six years. My first school had sixty pupils and nine grades. At my first and at my last school, I had the championship baseball team for the surrounding districts. Many interesting incidents come to mind of those early days, but would occupy too much space to relate.

Fond memories of my childhood are of family gatherings at Christmas and the summer picnics. Also dances at the school house at Leachville (named after John Leach's father). We always visited Grandmother Cole at Christmas even after the families had grown too large to have a joint Christmas dinner. Sometimes we had to dig our way out of snowbanks, but we got there. She lived with her daughter, Aunt Etta Leach and then Aunt Nell Trenhaile after Grandpa Cole was killed.

My greatest fears as a child were the prairie fires, because of all the open land south of our farm, and the electrical storms that struck and burned barns and animals. We had lots of fruit on our farm and people used to come and pick saskatoons, pincherries and chokecherries by the milk-pailsful. Outsiders used to sneak in the pasture and help themselves. Kenneth and I drove four and one-half miles to Leachville School and it was sure cold. We had a foot warmer in the cutter and wore as many clothes as we could pile

on. It was often 40 degrees below. Later we went to Vegreville High School, but Kenneth died of ruptured appendix in 1923, so I stayed in town during my high school days.

More Cole family descendants:

Henry and Nell Trenhaile had two daughters: Pearl, who married Mark Atkinson, and Grace, who married George Johnson. Also a son Clifford, who died as a young boy.

Ezra and Etta Leach had one son, John, married to Madge Shaw.

Merton and Sarah Cole had four children. George, married to Eva Hines, Cecile married Robert Nicolson of Red Deer, Myrtle married Dick Collison, and Roy married Agnes Bremner.

Tom and Inez Tierney had four children: Willis married to Wilhelmina Bremner; Eva married Joe Nelson; Leo, single; and Stella married Marrio Oard.

Ezra Cole and Kate had one son, Ralph, now living in Tacoma, Washington.



The patriarch, George Cole, and his wife Alida with children Willis and Stella Cole, 1895.



Old-timers' picnic, 1955.



Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cole with little Lemuel and his dog in front of the first part of the family home, about 1906.

Collins, Art and Edna by Art Collins

Born and raised on farms near Hanna, Alberta, Art and Edna met while attending high school in Hanna, 1938-39. Edna attended Camrose Lutheran College and then went to work for the Alberta Treasury Branch. Art joined the RCAF in 1940 and served with the RAF in England as a flying instructor, and was involved in the development of Britain's Glider Force. Art and Edna were married when Art returned from England. He then went to work for Canadian Utilities, Ltd., in their power plant at Yorkton, Saskatchewan. After two years there, and at Kerrobert, where their first child, Gregory, was born in 1947, the Collins family moved to Vegreville in October, 1947. In 1950 they built their home on 54a Avenue where they have lived since, and where their three later children — Margaret, Neil, and Donna — were born. All the Collins children attended St. Martin's and/or VCHS and, like their parents, were involved in many community activities.

At the present time, Gregory, his wife Arlene, and their son Ashley live in Edmonton and Greg teaches at NAIT. Margaret married Gordon Case while they were attending U of A in Edmonton; they live in Calgary with their two daughters, Jocelyn and Shevawn. Neil and Donna live in Calgary and are still single and living the good life.

Art came to Vegreville to reactivate an old power plant located on Main Street just north of Central Wholesale. There was a shortage of power at that time and new equipment was not available, so a Rolls Royce engine from a Hawker Hurricane aircraft was modified to run on natural gas and was used to generate electricity during peak load periods for the winter of 1947-48. An old oil-fired diesel engine was also converted to run on natural gas. These two old hybrids (the motors — not Art and Edna) have long since passed away, along with the old power plant, but this episode should remind us that only thirty-two years ago we, in Alberta, imported all but a very small part of our oil; only a few fortunate communities, such as Vegreville, had natural gas; and small villages and farms were heated with wood and coal and used DC electricity or did without. Three decades ago there were no paved roads in Alberta except the few miles of pot-holed hard-top between Edmonton and Calgary. Our trains then ran on coal. Mackenzie-King was the only guy with television. As an indispensable cog in the wheel, Art was paid \$165.00 per month; fortunately, the house mortgage rate was only 3 1/2.

What will the next thirty-two years bring?

Couillard, Dr. August compiled by Michael H. Tomin

Dr. August Couillard arrived in Vegreville in 1910, following Drs. Rush and Field. He carried on his practice for approximately 55 years. He retired from active medical practice about 1965, and passed away in 1969, after enjoying several years of well-deserved retirement. During the time of his practice he became widely known as a compassionate man sincerely devoted to the welfare of those he served.

Dr. Couillard had experiences spanning more than half a century, ranging from the horse and buggy days of transit to the more recent automobile. In later



Dr. Couillard about to take off on a country medical call with horse and cutter, about 1930.



Mrs. Helen Couillard, wife of Dr. A. E. Couillard. About 1930.

years Dr. Couillard was a regular anaesthetist at the General Hospital.

His house, located on the second lot west of the old Town Hall, was an inspiring two-storey cement block structure. It was moved away ten years ago to make room for a public parking lot.

Communitywise, Dr. Couillard was quite involved. For a number of years both he and his wife were members of the St. Martin's Separate School Board. In the mid-50's the Vegreville Lions Club saw fit to honor Dr. Couillard at a community testimonial banquet and he, along with his associate, the late Dr. R. M. Reid, were recognized and presented with suitably inscribed plaques. No doubt the doctors were surprised at the warmth of the reception they received, but the event was a fitting way of thanking them for their faithful service to the community.

Doubtless there are many people living in Vegreville and elsewhere whose birth he attended. Perhaps he looked after three generations of citizens in his line of work. He was a family doctor whom no one can forget.

Dr. Couillard was born in Montreal in 1883 and following graduation from medical school, came to Alberta in 1909 and Vegreville a year later. In 1911 he married the former Miss Helen Bowe. They were blessed with one son Ted who is a doctor in Edmonton, and presently an elderly man.

Some of the above information is courtesy of the Vegreville Observer.



Dr. August E. Couillard, pioneer Vegreville doctor. About 1945.

Cunningham, Edwin and Evelyn

by Allan Cunningham

We lived on the farm which is probably now known as the George Ziegler farm, a half-mile west and two and a quarter miles south of Park Grove School.

We rode horses to school almost all the time, and many were the adventures on the way. Conferences at the corner, porcupines in the school barn, spring floods on the creek, plus the weather and the world around us made the daily journeys rich and varied.

Bruce and I attended Park Grove from Grade One, with the exception of 1944-45 at Ryan School, until 1951 when he left school. Clifford began at Park Grove, too, while Rex started in 1951 in Vegreville, the year that Park Grove closed in favor of bussing to Vegreville. School consolidation widened our horizons and our circle of friends and acquaintances, but at the same time I think it weakened community ties somewhat.

In November of 1952, we sold our farm to George Ziegler, and moved to a larger one south of Vermilion, in the Buffalo Coulee district. We continued school at the three-room Buffalo Coulee School (also in the Vegreville School Division) until the end of Grade ten, when we had to board in Vermilion to take higher grades. After finishing Grade Eleven, and full of eighteen-year-old wisdom, I left high school and took the two-year agriculture course at Vermilion College, finishing in April, 1956.

Bruce and I were putting the crop in that spring, as my father's heart condition allowed him to do only light work. One day late in May, he suffered a severe heart attack and died at home. We carried on, as best we could with our mixed farm operation with Clifford and Rex, both still in school, helping when they could.

Clifford graduated from Grade twelve in Vermilion in 1957, stayed out of school one year (acted as caretaker at Buffalo Coulee Curling Rink, plus helping at home) and enrolled in Arts-Geography at the University of Alberta in 1958, graduating in 1962.

In the fall of 1960 mother married Mr. Frank H. Eyben, a widower farmer who lived south of us.

Bruce and I and sometimes only myself, carried on until the fall of 1962 when we sold the farm, the herd, equipment and all, and went our separate ways. Clifford went to Europe for a trip with college friends. Bruce went to farm and other jobs as he had done occasionally for several years. Rex went to Camrose Lutheran College to finish high school and then to Vermilion College. I went to Alberta College in Edmonton to finish Grade twelve and thence to University of Alberta in 1963 in Education.



Wedding picture of Edwin Cunningham and Evelyn McCleery. Best-man is Lorne Cunningham and the bridesmaid is Marjorie McCleery, 1933.

The years since 1962 have seen many changes in our family. Mother and Frank lived on his farm in the Buffalo Coulee district until he sold out in 1965, and then on their “retirement farm”, a quarter-section located about twelve miles southwest of Vermilion. They built a house on it in 1966, had some more land broken out, and generally enjoyed small-scale farming and gardening until early 1975, when health problems forced them both to slow down. Mother was found to have an inoperable malignancy in mid-1975, and after a long siege, died in February, 1976. Frank followed in September 1976 after a severe stroke.

Bruce worked at a variety of jobs in various parts of Alberta, including Calgary until it became obvious in early 1967 that he had a heart condition. After various types of treatment, and a great deal of coaxing, he agreed to undergo open heart surgery at the University Hospital, Edmonton where a valve was replaced. He made a satisfactory recovery but was still in intensive care when a sudden complication took his life on December 25, 1967, at the age of 32 years.

Before graduating from Vermilion College in 1966, Rex had worked several summers for farmers in the Buffalo Coulee-Wainwright areas; so keen for a change of scenery, he went to Denmark for the summer and fall of 1966, as a member of an agricultural exchange program. A brief winter stint at the University of Alberta Farm in 1966-67 convinced him of the evils of city living, and after a summer on a farm near Provost, bought his own farm north of Mannville in late 1967. In July, 1968 Rex married Joyce Olsen of Bawlf, and set up housekeeping, which now includes sons Scott and Murray and infant daughter Jayne.

Clifford worked in Edmonton as a city and municipal planner until 1964 when he returned to varsity to obtain his teaching degree. He married Rosemarie Dalglish of Picture Butte, Alberta in August 1964, and after teaching a year each in Ardrossan and Edmonton, went to Kafue, Zambia in August 1967 under church auspices. In Kafue he taught in a boys' secondary school (Junior and Senior High) until 1971, returning with son Cameron and infant son Stuart for their first look at Canada. After a one-year furlough in Edmonton, he and his family returned to Zambia for a further term until April 1975, when they returned to live in Edmonton. Clifford currently teaches at Ardrossan School.

I taught high school subjects at Bowden in 1967-68, and then transferred to a field position with the Indian Affairs Department in St. Paul, working as a vocational counsellor with the treaty Indian people of Northeastern Alberta. In August, 1971 I joined Canada Manpower, based in Fort McMurray until February 1974 when I transferred to the Edmonton Manpower office, where I still work. I decided to end my lengthy bachelorhood and married Miss Ann Ullman of Edmonton on June 25, 1977.

Cunningham, Lorne and Dorothy

Lorne Cunningham arrived in Alberta along with the family in 1910. He received his elementary schooling in Park Grove and Ryan Schools and after one year of high school in Vegreville he proceeded to the Vermilion School of Agriculture. After receiving the V.S.A. Diploma he spent the next several years on the home farm.

In 1936 he left Park Grove to try farming at Beaverlodge in the Peace River Country. This didn't prove to be any more rewarding than it was in Park Grove so in 1941 he joined the R.C.A.F. where he spent the next four and a half years.

It was during this time that Lorne met and married Dorothy Mallett of Queenstown, Alberta in 1942.

After the War in 1946 the Cunninghams returned to Park Grove where they farmed the old Scritsmier place.

Lorne and Dot were blessed with three children: Myrna, Linda, and John — of the three Myrna alone survives.

Myrna, the eldest daughter, graduated from Vegreville High School in 1962 and went on to Lamont for three years of nurses training. She graduated from Lamont in 1965 and spent the following year in Baie Verte, Newfoundland. She returned to Calgary and then Edmonton where she worked until May of 1970 when she went to Mexico.

Myrna and Gabriel Garcia were married in 1970 and lived in Mexico until the fall of 1971 when they moved to Canada.

Myrna and Gabriel have two children — Gabriel Jr. born in Mexico in September of 1971 and Yolanda born in Mackenzie, British Columbia in January of 1975. The Garcias are presently residing in Mackenzie, British Columbia where they have been for the past four years.

Poor health forced early retirement in 1968 to Edmonton and in the following year to British Columbia where we finally settled in Oliver.

Cunningham, Orville Desmond by daughter Bernice

This is the history of my father Orville Desmond Cunningham's life before and after coming to Vegreville.

Orville Cunningham was born in Bruce County, Ontario in the year 1884. Then he moved with parents and one older sister to Crystal, North Dakota, at the age of two.

Four more boys, Herb, Roy, Alvin, and Marshal were born there. Orville's father, Thomas John Cunningham and wife Mary Ann, moved their family with stock and machinery to Strathcona, Alberta, in 1896. Orville was twelve years old.

The family stayed with Orville's aunt and uncle, Ralph and Jenny Hulbert. Thomas John Cunningham bought a farm at Fort Saskatchewan and moved the

family there in 1897. Orville finished his schooling there.

In 1898 Thomas John Cunningham moved back to Strathcona and started a furniture store. He rented the farm to a Scotch family, McAllister's. Orville hauled hay every weekend from Ft. Saskatchewan, to Strathcona with a team and sleigh at age 14. During the week he drove his Uncle, Dr. Will Cunningham, on his rounds as he had a broken leg. After two years they moved back to the farm. Orville and brother Herb did the farming till 1903.

In 1903 Thomas John and his son Orville took homesteads in Vegreville. Orville Cunningham took the SE. 24-52-15-W. 4th.

Thomas John Cunningham took land next to Orville's. Thomas John bought a farm at Leachville four miles west of Old Vegreville and lived there and proved up on his homestead. He built the big house we remember as the Louis Knies place on Orville's homestead.

Thomas John went to work for the Federal Government as Homestead Inspector. He worked there for 25 years till he was pensioned off.

Orville met William Still and learned steam engineering from him. Next year Orville went back to Edmonton and worked on a steam engine pumping water for pier holes when the Low Level Bridge was built and received his steam engine papers. Orville farmed and worked at other jobs.



Orville Cunningham with two grandchildren, 1935.



Thomas John Cunningham, Bernice Erickson and daughter Theresa, 1935.

During this time he met and courted Annie Still, daughter of William Still. Orville and Annie were married on June 26, 1905. Orville was 23 and Annie was 19.

Orville and Annie drove with team and buggy to Edmonton on their honeymoon. During their time in Edmonton Annie saw her first car.

Annie Cunningham's father, William Still, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He moved to Dallas, Texas, with his parents, the William Still's, when he was a small boy. He grew up there and married a girl by the name of Anna Shaw. William Still the 3rd, Anna and family moved to Michigan and from there they moved to Vegreville when Annie was twelve years old in 1898. Annie finished her schooling in Old Vegreville.

William Still homesteaded near Old Vegreville. He planted spruce trees around the house and along the driveway to the road and it was later known as the "Evergreen Farm." William and Anna Still had 5 girls and 2 boys — Etta, Gertrude, Annie, Avery, William, Fred and Edith. Grandpa Still became ill and went back to Michigan and died shortly after.

Orville and Annie Cunningham lived on the homestead till 1914. Percy, Violet, Mae and Bernice were born during this time. Bernice was born at home 1912; Dr. Couillard attended the birth. Percy was old enough to wonder about new arrivals and asked Mrs. Lang who stayed with his mother, where Bernice came from. She told him she picked her up in the nuisance ground. Bernice never was able to live that down because her brother never let her forget it till she was nearly grown up. Bernice, being the darkest one of the children, was quoted by Mrs. M. Smith as looking like a "little Indian" and that topped everything off.

The family moved to the old Graves place north of Vegreville across from the Mark Kitto place, and Donald was born there 1914.

We moved back to the homestead 1916 or '17 and lived there till 1923. Earl, Grace and Lola were born during this time. All the children but Grace and Lola went to school in Vegreville.

During this time Grandpa, Thomas John Cunningham, moved to Edmonton and Jack Forbes and family lived in the big house. This was the ending of World War I and the time of the hard winter; then after that the flu broke out and many people died. Our family was very fortunate as only mother and brother Percy got it but they recovered.

In 1923 Orville sold the homestead and moved to a farm in the district of Imperial. I (Bernice) was eleven years old and in grade four.

By this time Percy had finished grade eight and quit school. Violet was in grade eight at that time and



Annie, wife of Orville Cunningham, 1941.



Maryann, wife of Thomas John Cunningham, about 1905.

finished school at Imperial. Pearl was born in February 1926. Mae and I finished our public school at Imperial. My best friend was Aleta Ross who also went to school there.

Close neighbours there were the George family, the Muntz family, Scott family, Schmidt family and Ross family.

Mae finished school and boarded in Vegreville at our uncle Herb Cunningham's for two years. In 1927 I finished school at Imperial so mother and father decided that mother should move to Vegreville with the family, so he moved the old house from his original homestead to a piece of land just west of the old armories building. There the family lived till Mae finished High School and I finished Grade Ten in 1929. Violet went in training for a nurse at St. Joseph's General Hospital at Vegreville and finished her training at this time also.

Mr. Hayhurst was the High School Principal and Mr. McCrea was the Public School Principal. Mr. Horton was the editor of the Observer and Mr. Holden was mayor of Vegreville during this time.

My special friends at that time were May Kitto (her folks lived north of town) and Florence Dunham. Florence boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Mert Cole. Mae's school friend was Georgina Johnson. During my High School years I did a great deal of baby-sitting for friends and neighbors and received 75¢ usually, and on New Year's Eve, \$1.00.

All children were attending Vegreville Public School except for Pearl who was still too young.

In the spring of '29 Orville decided to take a second homestead so he went and looked at some land north-west of Bonnyville, and found a quarter he liked so filed on it. He came back and sold the land at Imperial. Orville then moved the family to the homestead in the Iron River District in the fall of 1929.

Mae at this time was attending Normal School in Edmonton and working towards a teaching degree. Violet was now nursing in the Athabasca area.

Annie and Orville lived on this homestead during the depression and World War II and finally ended their years in Turner Valley.

Orville Cunningham died June 18, 1962, and Annie Cunningham died June 24, 1965.

I married Glen Erickson and still live in the Iron River area.

Cunningham, William

William Cunningham — Born April 18, 1865 — Essex County, Ontario, died November 12, 1935 — Vegreville, Alberta.

Emma Jane Connolly — Born January 6, 1866 —

Kincardine County, Ontario, Died July, 1954 — Edmonton, Alberta.

William and Emma were married March 6, 1895. The Cunningham's lived in Ontario for a few years before moving to Plumas, Manitoba in about 1898. William did carpentry work for a short time in 1900 before settling on a farm near the town of Glenella, Manitoba.

While in Glenella, he took up a homestead in the "Swan River, Manitoba" area. He shipped four oxen, one pony, a wagon, breaking plow and disk, planning to make the required improvements on his homestead. On arrival, he found the country flooded. He threw up the homestead and sold the equipment. On his return to Glenella, he found it also was flooding and he had to walk the four miles home in about a foot of water. (Note: In many areas of Manitoba it is very flat.)

They homesteaded again in 1905 in the Bellhampton, Manitoba district; about 14 miles from Glenella. The family moved to this location the winter of 1905-1906.

The fall of 1910 William answered the call of the west and traded his homestead to Joe Smith of Vegreville, Alberta for Joe's butcher shop. William was a butcher by trade. There were living quarters in the same building, so the family made their home there. There were five growing children in the family and all but one in school.

The summer of 1914 William's heart gave out and he had to quit all heavy work. This meant selling the shop. Farming seemed the only alternative, as the older boys would be able to help with the farm work. He was able to rent a farm in the Lafond district about 45 miles north-east of Vegreville. He had 3 four-year-old steers and three ponies. He made yokes for the steers and broke them in. The following summer they cleared and broke 40 or 45 acres. Milk cows were secured and Emma made butter and sold eggs for groceries, as did many others at that time. Patching, mending, sewing and knitting took much of her time and strength.

William and Emma began to realize there wasn't much future for a growing family that far from the larger centers.

They were able to buy the late "Albert McCleery" farm in the Park Grove District. This is now the home of Edna and the late George Ziegler. They moved the winter of 1916-1917. Bert and Edwin often recalled those cold trips while moving; the trip took a day and a half, with the team of horses and sleigh. Willie worked out during this time and contributed half of his earnings to give Emma a little financial help.

William, Emma and family remained in the Park

Grove district until retirement. They were always interested in church and community life. Family worship was a daily practice.

In the early years of their marriage, they were active Presbyterians; when Church Union was first introduced, they were quite in favor, and later transferred their membership to the United Church. Both William and Emma were very active in Sunday School work and related organizations. Emma was a Life Member of the Women's Missionary Society and was always ready to lend a helping hand in sickness or bereavement.

William was very interested in farm organizations and an ardent supporter of the various Co-operatives.

There were eight children born to this union, five reached adulthood: William James, Robert Alexander, Clifford Edwin, Irene Elizabeth and Albert Lorne.

There were also the sad times. A little son was still born, due to a wild prairie storm and William couldn't leave the small family to get help. Another little son "Roy" died of convulsions at a year old. A daughter, "Edna", ten years old passed on with what was later thought to be a ruptured appendix.

These were a part of the homestead days when Doctors and Health Nurses could only be reached by messenger.

Respectfully submitted by:
Bert Cunningham (son)
Irene Ziegler (daughter)

Dadensky, Joseph and Mary by son Dmetro as told to M. L. English

Joseph and Mary Dadensky came from Kolomea, Ukraine, Semarkuchi village. They landed at Halifax in 1903, with small son Michael and baby Dmetro. On the street in Halifax a peddler approached Mrs. Dadensky to sell her a pair of scissors. She set her baby down and looked, turned to pick up the baby, and it was gone, snatched into a covered basket. Uncle Kordoski saw this and ran after the man, rescued the baby and returned to the grateful mother.

Dadenskys stayed in Mundare, Alberta, still N.W.T., a year or two. Joseph worked on the railroad to help out. Then they homesteaded one mile south of present Two Hills. They had a lovely farm, the old buildings are still standing and the farm is cut in half by Highway 36.

Mrs. Mary Dadensky was a wax doctor, a herb doctor, also a midwife. She safely delivered babies for many miles around. People came to seek help from towns and farms far away.

Mrs. Dadensky had a natural gift for helping the

sick, effected many cures for the depressed, disturbed and also physical ills.

However, sad to say, her little girl died in 1911. The two sons lived long years and had families. Mike is deceased; wife Jessie lives in Vegreville. Dmetro Dadensky still lives in Two Hills with his wife Anne. Their daughter Esther lives in Edmonton with husband Dr. Harry Mosychuk, and they have two girls, Susan and Patricia.

Paul Dadensky, son of Dmetro and Anne, is on the farm with wife Elsie. They have four children: Carol Anne, Michael Paul, Karen Maureen and James Joseph — still at school.

Joseph and Mary Dadensky are buried in Lanuke cemetery, just south of Two Hills, near the Vermilion River.

Dake, Richard and Grace

Grace Adele Miller (02-01-84) and Richard Maidwell Dake (08-10-79), both of Chippewa County were married on March 6, 1904 at Bloomer, Wisconsin. Jeweller by trade, Mr. Dake operated a photography and jewellery shop in Chippewa Falls. On medical advice he looked for outdoor work and to this end moved his family to the rural area of Alberta, the Park Grove district, in 1911. He came by train via Emerson, Manitoba, bringing a carload of farm machinery, livestock and household effects. Mrs. Dake followed with Harold and Rosalie.

The family lived for eight years on SE of 15-53-15-W4, then moved to NW of 11-53-15-W4. This was raw land, and the first year wheat on thirty-five acres of breaking was frozen. Breaking, a barn fire and the usual pioneer tasks were part of the picture. Mr. Dake died in 1951. Mrs. Dake then lived in Edmonton until her death in 1976.

Harold worked for the Provincial Government as a purchasing agent until his death in 1966. He had two children: Lorraine Dake Spalding (three children) of Edmonton and Gary (two children) of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Rosalie Dake Ball lived most of her years in Edmonton and Spokane and is now in Sherwood Park. Her daughter, Ella-Mae Breitreitz (four children) lives in Wainwright, Alberta.

Lucille Dake Ziegler lived in Edmonton and is now in Spokane. She has one son Lawrence (two children).

Theodore Edward (Ted) has lived all his life on the same home quarter, a second generation farmer. He has four children: Jane Dake Skinner of Edmonton, and three would-be tradesmen with farm backgrounds, Timothy, Kurt and James.

Gwendolyn Dake Adamic lived in Edmonton and

is now in Vancouver. She has three children: Adele, Alyson and Andrew.

Dake, Ted and Jean

Ted married Jean Craig, an exchange teacher from Saint John, New Brunswick. Coming from United Empire Loyalist stock, she was raised in the Loyalist County of the Loyalist province. Proud of her heritage, she still is, like her forebears, more interested in being Canadian than of an ethnic group. She finished her education degree at the University of Alberta, and has taught twenty years in this province.

Timothy married Fay Fedoryshen and lives in Park Grove. Fay lived in the Viking area, and her family now live in Vegreville.

Jane married Douglas Skinner, whose family has lived in Riverdale since early in the century. They live in Riverdale (Edmonton) now and are both zoologists.

Kurt and James both work in Fort Saskatchewan.

Danyluk, David **by Mary (Danyluk) Bellegay**

David Danyluk, son of Yurey and Maria, was born September 15, 1887, in the village of Kniazhe, region of Sniatyn, Western Ukraine (occupied by Austria at that time). David was one of nine brothers and sisters. Father Yurey owned a few hectares of land in the village. When this land would eventually be divided amongst the seven sons, each son would inherit a small portion, which would be inadequate to provide a living. For this reason, David, at the age of seventeen years, decided to emigrate to Canada, with many others from Western Europe, looking for a new life in the new country — land of hope and promise.

Finding employment was very difficult. Everywhere he asked for a job, he was told, "You are a school boy; go to school." But one had to survive, and he did get a job with the Canadian Pacific Railway at fourteen cents per hour. In 1907, David decided to go to British Columbia, where he worked in a lumber mill during the summer. He then worked as a coal miner in Frank, Alberta (known for the Frank Slide). In 1908, he was able to get a job in a coal mine at Hosmer, B.C., where he obtained his miner's papers.

It was in Hosmer, in 1909, that David met his future wife, Tetiana Boychuk, and they were married that year.

Working conditions in the mines were very hazardous. Cave-ins occurred, and gas pockets exploded, resulting in miners losing their lives. Residents living in the coal mine towns suffered from silicosis of the lungs.

After working and saving a small amount of



David and Tetiana Danyluk, 1955.

money, David and Tetiana moved to Edmonton in 1911, and settled in a small home. In 1912, Tetiana's brother, John Boychuk, and David went into a grocery store partnership in the Norwood district — delivering groceries and meat by horse and buggy. Business was thriving well until autumn of 1914. The city workers, with seasonal jobs, were buying groceries on credit, hoping to pay up their bills in spring. But, by springtime the wholesale closed the grocery store, and the business went bankrupt. This misfortune caused David a nervous breakdown, and the doctors ordered him to move to the country to recuperate. It was 1917 when the family of three moved to the Two Hills District, and lived with relatives (cousin and her husband, Wasyl Nikiforuk) for two years.

David and family took up farming in the same district (Lanuke) but the weather elements were not favourable one year after another, so, in 1922, they gave up farming. They moved to the village of Lavoy, and started up a livery barn. Farmers from as far north as Musidora and Kaleland hauled grain all



Danyluk Family, 1936. (L. to r.) — Tetiana (mother), Anne, Mary, Sophia, and David (father). The brick residence was built by Charles Gordon about 1910. It still stands but is covered with stucco — situated a block south of Highway 16 on Bruce road.

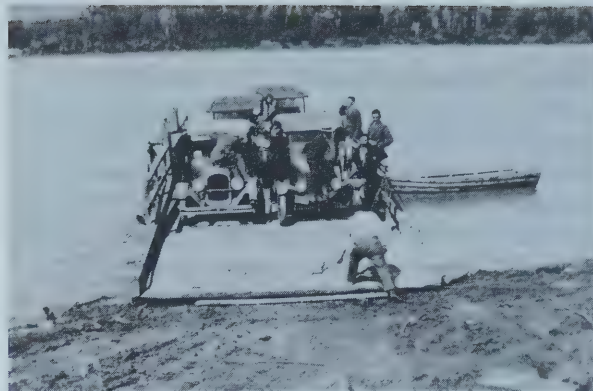
winter to the elevators in Lavoy. During the summer David worked for the C.N.R.

By this time the family increased to four children — Mary, Sophia, Mike and Anne. It was then the parents decided to move to a bigger town where better education opportunities would be available for the children. So the Danyluk family settled in Vegreville in 1926, in a brick home on ten acres of land purchased from Charles Gordon. On this property, south of the highway and west of Miss Black's home, the original Vegreville brick factory was located. The brick home still stands, covered with stucco, just north of Ron Kropielnicki's new home. Many original buildings in town were built with the bricks manufactured here.

David worked at whatever jobs he could get: Gordon's lumberyard, coal-mining at Drumheller and Wayne in the winter time, then finally as a railway man on the C.P.R. till the age of 65.

The four children all attended public and high school in Vegreville. They were able to attend Ukrainian classes after school hours, learn music, and participate in the mandolin string orchestra, plays, concerts, and Ukrainian dancing by belonging to the local Ukrainian Cultural Group, in the Ukrainian Labor Hall.

The eldest daughter Mary married Stanley Bellegay in 1931, raised four children, and lived in



Mary Danyluk (Bellegay) at top middle of ferry crossing North Saskatchewan River at Duvernay, 1928.

Vegreville until 1979. A registered Medical Record Librarian, Mary was head of the Record Department for 21 years at St. Joseph's General Hospital.

Sophia married Dr. Marshall Kulka, F.R.S.C., a research chemist, in 1939, and lives in Guelph, Ontario. They have two children, Maria and David. Dr. Kulka has received the first Edy award for achievements in research.

Their son Mike, during World War II, served overseas in the front lines for two years. After returning home, he married Dorothy Sadownyk. He worked as a baker for approximately ten years. He then served the Edmonton School Board as a boiler engineer until his retirement in 1979. They now reside in Redwater. Their children are Jean, Valerie and David.

Anne, youngest daughter of David and Tetania, resides with her husband, Edwin Peterson and son Randy, in New York.

Tetania, a warm and compassionate person, who was loved by all who knew her, passed away in 1958, at the age of 65. Shortly after that, David sold the family home, and took up residence at the Vegreville Senior Citizens' Home — "Homestead Lodge," where, in his 93rd year of life, he still resides.

Davidson, Don and Lila

Lila Ferguson, daughter of Kenneth Ferguson and Fannie McCleery Ferguson attended Park Grove school for only three months since she was in grade eight when her family moved to the Howard McCleery farm. She travelled to Ryan for grade nine and ten, then moved to Vegreville for eleven and twelve. She took a three-month war emergency teacher training course and started teaching in January at Ideal south of Vegreville. The next term was spent in another one-room country school, Indian Lake, north of Vermilion. This was followed by a couple of years at New Sarepta teaching grades 1-3. She soon

decided grade oners were her favorites and moved to Leduc where she taught grade one for three years. The next move was to the bright lights of Edmonton, but meeting Jasper avenue head on and finding it was her head that cracked not the cement gave her a dim view of the city. A year back in the Park Grove community repaired her shattered nerves and she accepted a job at Wainwright. After three years Lila decided to go a bit south and taught in a three-room country school, Merna, south of Sedgewick. The Superintendent asked her to move to the grade one classroom at Sedgewick but that was north instead of south so after one term she resigned and moved to Alliance changing her name in the old fashioned way to Davidson (Mrs. Don Davidson).

She has been unemployed ever since. Don is a farmer raising cattle, wheat and oats. A year later Jennifer Davidson cooed and cried and kept life from getting dull. She was joined by Frances, Margaret, Ralph and Helen before she was six years old. The children are bussed to school in Alliance. For high school they are bussed thirty miles to Sedgewick. All five are members of the 4-H. Now Jennifer has completed her high school and will take her first year of University at Camrose Lutheran College next fall. Frances will be taking her last year of high school. Margaret is making the switch from Alliance to Sedgewick. Ralph will be in grade nine and Helen in seven.

Dean, George

In March, 1918, George Dean left Thorndale, Ontario, where he had owned a General Store, and he joined his brother, Harry, in purchasing section 3-52-14 from Dr. Arthur who then lived in Lavoy. The "Arthur" houses were later rented to tenant farmers, including Volks and Junkers. George completed a family home on the south-west quarter near Ridgepark school. As he came west before his family, George spent some Sunday evenings hiking the five miles to town to attend church.

George was soon joined by his family: wife Mary Ann, son William John at thirteen, and daughters, Verda Jane, nine, and Dora Christine, seven. They came via CNR tourist class with the furniture following by freight car. In the move, the sad-irons were misplaced and not found for some time, so the laundry process suffered. Later, maternal grandmother, Mrs. Jane Stinson, came to spend her declining years with the Deans. She was a decided Irish woman and had much to say about the tent caterpillars which were such a pest one summer. All the family attended the United Church, with such ministers as, Reverends W. H. Hughes, A. R. Schrag, S. R. Irving, and Dr. Armstrong.



George and MaryAnn Dean, married in Ontario, 1902. Parents of William, Verda, and Dora.

Young Bill Dean, of high school age, attended the old brick school in town where Dr. Cairns School is now. Bill rode horseback, even in 50 below weather, along with classmates Albert Balaam and Wally Kennedy, keeping their horses in a nearby barn owned by Joe Smith, the butcher. The Dean girls went to Ridgepark school on their farm and just east of their house. Some of the teachers boarded with the Deans. Ruth Balaam was the first teacher; some others were: Ada Moore, Greta Patterson, M. A. Somers, Addie Taylor, Dorothy Harkness and her



First Dean house on Ridgepark farm. Uncle Harry Dean, Dora, Verda, Ada Moore (teacher), Dad Dean and Bill (reclining), 1920.

mother, Mrs. Harkness, Hazel Coombes, Hope Jewel, Ora Moore, Betty Sands, Margaret Dinwoodie, Bertha Kennedy, Walter Dinwoodie, Howard Gimby, Rita James, and Dora Dean.

In the early days, the farm abounded in wild food: raspberries, saskatoons, pin and choke-cherries, and prairie chicken, often on the menu as George was a good shot. Deans raised cattle on the range and milk cows, hogs, chickens, geese, and horses. They kept about twenty horses, and even though most were heavy draft type, young Bill broke everyone to ride. In 1918 the crop was lost to frost and the next one was dried out. Threshing was done by Harry Ragan with his huge steam-engine; then by McGowans, and later by Frank McCarty's outfit. In 1935, George delivered the first carload of wheat to



George and Bill Dean with coyote skins, 1920's.

the National Elevator who sent it to Vancouver. Determined to harvest that early crop before the end of August, they used lanterns and carlights so that the crew could finish on the thirty-first. Grain was hauled first by teams pulling big green boxes on wagons or sleighs; an early United Grain Grower's agent was Ken Watts. Massey-Harris machinery was very popular, with Mike Zenko as the reliable and friendly agent. Mr. Asselstine, the telephone repairman, often ate at their house, paying the large sum of 35¢ for a dinner. When trucks came into use, George Bourget's cheery voice could be heard at 5:00 a.m. coming to pick up stock to take to market in Edmonton.

In the Depression, with farm prices at an all-time low, money was always found so that the family could attend Chautauqua, a week of imported educational and entertainment activities, held annually under a big tent in many prairie towns. Verda remembers that as they drove home from one afternoon concert, her father was wondering despairingly where they would find money to buy twine for harvesting. When they arrived at their place, they found that a favorite, faithful horse had been killed in the electrical storm that day. Having insured against storm damage, George was soon paid by agent Charles Clifton, enough money to buy that year's twine. Close and good neighbors, sharing happy times and sad ones, were the Frank McCartys, Sam James, Vern Umphrey, Alex Reimers, Ben Hawkins, Levi Landry, and, across the road, first, the Stantons, then the Walker brothers and their father, and later,



George Dean. Wheat crop, 1920.

John Maciborskis. Doctors R. M. Reid and A. Couillard served the family medically.

George Dean was the first agent in the area for Elephant Brand Fertilizer, which he continued to handle while on the farm. His wife died in 1936 at age fifty-three. Son Bill served as Major in the Royal Canadian Engineers in WW II; he became a mining engineer in Toronto and died there in 1961. Verda was a telephone operator in Vegreville, then she worked for Eatons' Catalogue office, and later for Dr. Cairns school. In 1945 the farm was sold to Peter Chudyk and Verda and her father moved to town to the home she now occupies — the former Presbyterian manse which had been made into a duplex in 1918 by the Chas. Gordon Lumber Co. Mr. Dean died in 1950, aged 74. Dora Dean taught school for some years in various places in Alberta; she married Lloyd Korstad and, now widowed, lives at Kimberley, B.C.

In order to facilitate one of her hobbies, driving for the less fortunate, Verda had a new garage built by Ed Eickmeyer in 1963, thereby demolishing her historic garage which had once served as a barn for the Presbyterian driver. Verda also keeps active in church work, hospital visiting, and driving for Meals-on-wheels. Her cheerful smile is part of the Vegreville scene.

Dean, Herb

by Betty Haniuk

That Christmas in the midst of the Depression was the most memorable of my life. Early in November, as we pored over the Eaton's catalog, we were warned by Mother that Santa would have hard sledding that year. As Christmas neared, I, being one of the older children, was told bluntly that Santa might not even get close to our house: every bit of spare money would have to go toward holiday food, such as a box of "Jap" oranges and one of "Mac" apples. My older brother, George, and I were almost past the toy stage, but still we felt really blue when we had to hint the sad news to the little kids that there would be no toys that year. We all went about our farm chores with spirits as low as the weak December sun. Then suddenly, on Christmas Eve, there came a phone call from Mom's friend, Mae Dean: George and I were to go there at once to pick up a parcel! Who could have sent a parcel there for us, and why? Anyway, the drive over with old Jack on the cutter relieved our dreariness, and besides, we loved Mrs. Dean, who true to form, greeted us with smiles and hot cocoa. Then, whispering that George and I were to be "Santa's Helpers", she produced a big closed carton which must be delivered to Mom only, after the little ones were asleep tonight. Carefully and



Left to right: Mrs. Herb (Mae) Dean, Eileen McCarty, Margaret Brinton, Mrs. Oligny holding Harold McCarty by the hand, Jennie Dean, Margaurette McCarty holding Walter. At Brinton's Hill, 1931, where Deans lived for a few years.

excitedly we followed her instructions, not even daring to peek ourselves. (The story of Pandora's Box in our readers had made a great impression on us!) So, after the younger kids had gone sadly to bed, George and I hauled in the carton from its cache in the straw-shed, and we held our breath as Mom opened the flaps. There inside were toys galore, all colors and all kinds! Maybe they were slightly used, but they looked wonderful to our poor eyes. And there were also specially wrapped parcels for each of Santa's helpers! Then we knew that Mrs. Dean with characteristic empathy had sensed the dire straits of our family and had known that her grown children's playthings would be welcomed by us.

Indeed they were! Christmas morning those toys brought shouts of surprise and joy from the tots and smiles of relief and happiness from our parents. I still remember my gifts: a book, and a wardrobe of doll clothes that just fit my "Eaton Beauty". Although far from wealthy herself, Mrs. Dean had a richness of spirit that will long be recalled by those who knew her.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dean moved to this area during Depression years and lived on several farms, including Brinton's Hill and Dave Kennedy's. Their two children spent a few years in this vicinity, then Archie joined the Air Force and Jennie (Gourlay) lives in Edmonton. Mr. and Mrs. Dean retired to a small bungalow near the Centennial Building in town, and soon Mae, always in frail health, passed away. Herb survived her for some years, dying in Edmonton in 1974 at the great age of ninety-one.

Decker, Claude
by Claude Decker, Meadow Creek, B.C.

My name is Claude Decker. I was born September 22, 1892 in Iowa, U.S.A. When I was three we moved to Minnesota and in 1903 we came to Alberta. My grandparents had come out from Sweden a long time ago and we stayed with them shortly before we came to Canada. The railroad station was Strathcona and we had to drive to Vegreville which was about one hundred miles or 107 sloughs away. Anyway, it took us three days to get there. We stayed at Fort Saskatchewan the first night in Alberta. The next night we stayed at some Ukrainian place close to Lamont and the third night we got to what is now Royal Park. There we stayed all the first winter. We moved up to the homestead in the spring of 1904. Dad built the house out of green spruce lumber. My Dad, A. J. Decker's homestead number was 6 and 12, the southwest quarter of 54-15 West of the fourth meridian.

We ate lots of ducks and rabbits. I guess we had fun in those days. We couldn't get away, we had no money. We used to trap muskrats, I and my cousins. They were seven cents for a hide at that time. Sometimes we could catch 20-25 rats a day with a dozen traps. Dad used to get about 50 rats a day. We were always catching ducks or rabbits or rats. We took the rat hides to Strathcona, which is now South Edmonton.

The railway didn't come through Vegreville until 1905.

When we came to Canada we had four horses and one twenty-dollar pony which was mine. All except the pony died of swamp fever. There was lots of water there then and we let the horses feed out there. That's how they got swamp fever. We didn't know better. We bought another team and one got lame and was lame all winter. Then we went together with an English family who lost one of their horses. That was Charlie Collett. We made trips together to Edmonton or hauled wood. We didn't have coal in those days. About 1905 Dad got a team of oxen. I was going to school then. When I got out of school I drove this team all the time. We had a six-foot seed drill and put the team on that. It was the best team I ever drove. I did all the seeding with that team, ten acres a day. I remember one day I wanted to finish — I don't remember what I wanted to do, but anyway, I kind of pushed the oxen a little and got 12 acres done. "You're sure a good driver", my father said, "You are tough on the oxen, though!"

I went to a one-room school; I was 15 years old and was back in grade two with four little kids about two feet tall and I was embarrassed because I had to be with the little fellows, so I didn't go to school any

longer than I had to. Grade three was as far as I ever got. I picked up most of my education after school. A. M. Rodick was our first teacher, but he got tangled up in a sawmill and lost an arm. Then there was Miss Mickle. She was a good old girl. She got an organ and taught us music. She wouldn't let us buy Christmas presents, she bought them all herself. She boarded with the Jimmy Dunn family. I remember Rod Dunn. He lost a leg in the Second World War. We were the best of friends, Rod and I. Played ball together, worked together too.

We had to walk about two and a half miles to school. In the winter when there was no road we just went across the prairie. That school was cold. The teacher would get a big fire going and we would sit around the stove and try to do a little studying. At noon it would get warm so we could go to our desks. Lots of nights it would be dark before we got home.

When I quit school I worked for my dad on the farm. He had quite a few cattle and had started raising horses. He had 25-30 of them and I had to look after them and break three or four colts every year so we had some ready for spring's work.

In 1908 I went up across the river and tried to hold a homestead for Charlie Hoff. He filed on it all right, but his father passed away so he didn't come back. His brother Sherman asked dad if I could go up and build a cabin and break an acre or two, and maybe I could hold the homestead until I was 18. I did and filed on it legally in Hamlin. So I was up there for two years. I hauled logs and fence posts — whatever dad wanted — down with horses and sometimes with an ox team. It was hilly and rough country up there and sometimes we met halfway. The post office was in Hamlin, then eventually we got a school which was in Quiet Nook. It was quite a country. We had a baseball team and lots of fun it was. Dad had a hard time getting me to come down and help him. Harry Jones, my good friend since 1903, had a homestead close to mine. We always worked together and played baseball. He helped me build a log cabin up there. He and I were often in trouble of some kind, nothing bad, mind you, but we made a lot of noise. I got the deed to my homestead in 1915. Then I went down to the States for a year and in 1918 I sold the homestead for sixteen hundred dollars. I can't remember the number of that land. It was a quarter section in section six, but that is all I remember. There is a doctor in Grand Forks, Don Purley. I believe he and I were neighbours in Hamlin. I would like to meet him again. We were good neighbours, the Purley family and myself. I had good neighbours there. My second cousin, Jack Tillapaugh, was one of them. He just died last fall. Harry is dead too. I miss my friends.

On that homestead up there we had lots of wood. We were never cold. Our baseball team never won a game. I also played at Warwick and I don't believe we ever lost a game. And the Brush Hill team, I don't believe they ever won a game. All you had to do was to get them laughing or arguing and they would lose a game for sure.

After I sold the homestead I thought I had lots of money. Then I invested in another quarter-section in Warwick and I kept that until 1928 when I sold it. After that I went up to Wetslock and got into a C.P.R. stump farm, worked my fool head off and went broke.

I remember the prairie fires. They were terrible. The prairie wool would be about two feet high all over the prairie and nothing in the world would stop the fire. It would go for hundreds of miles. One, I remember, started at Wetaskiwin and came right up to Vegreville when it finally started to rain; that was the only thing that would put the fire out. There was also a fire in 1905 but it didn't jump the railroad track. Then we got a rain and it put it out. There was another fire in 1906. Our neighbour Eli Kiefiuk burned out, he had nothing left at all. He got it all rebuilt and had another fire in the fall with a 60-mile an hour wind that day. We were lucky. It didn't happen to us. Another neighbour, Frank Emery, lost eight stacks of grain and his barn. In those days there was no compensation. You got nothing and had to start all over. But you had good neighbours and they would jump in and help. The Ukrainians were particularly good neighbours. They ground the flour, bran, shorts, whole wheat, even pigweed seeds. When you got a chunk of their bread you could work quite a long time. They used to raise good cabbage too. Once dad got some and we made a barrel of sauerkraut. We paid 5 cents a head and it was hard like a stone.

We didn't have much money at home. We traded work for things we needed. When we first came we never had copper money. The nickel was the smallest coin and it was hard to divide up sometimes. Maybe you'd lose three pennies one day or gain three another day. We also had the muskrat money. And there were a lot of homesteaders coming in at that time. Some worked out in Edmonton. They got paid and they paid dad for breaking two or three acres for them, three dollars an acre for breaking land. We bought Strong Baker's flour, one dollar and a half for a hundred- pound sack. It was good flour. Later on there was a mill in Vegreville and we used to take a load of wheat in and get it ground into flour.

My mother made my shirts. She also baked bread for these homesteading bachelors. She got a dollar for baking a hundred pounds of flour. Dad and I had

to rustle the wood for her small cookstove. She also milked the cows. Once when she got a new glass washboard she was so happy. She had been doing her washing on one of the old zinc boards and had big cuts on her fingers from it. When she got the glass washboard she thought she had got a million dollars. She made her own soap.

We would help each other building the sod houses people lived in. We'd plough the sod first, breaking it three inches deep, near the slough, a place it where it was good and tough. Somebody would cut the sod in two foot lengths with a spade. Then a man on the wagon would haul the sod, and then two or three people on the building would lay the sods, chinking the cracks with sand. A twenty by thirty foot barn would take about two days. We put a hay roof on. Slough hay shed water well. We didn't make sod roofs. People with sod roofs had leaking roofs several days after the rain stopped!

We were never hungry or cold in the dirty thirties. We never had money, every day was the same as the other, but we went through those years all right. You couldn't buy a job. I remember one time I was walking down the street in Westlock and saw a fellow trying to drill a hole in the truck frame and the drill wouldn't cut. "Why don't you grind the drill?" I asked. "But you don't grind a new drill," the man argued. When he had gone back to his shop his son asked me to grind the drill. And I did and it worked. I got myself a three-day job with these people and the pay was a dollar per day. I was quite happy about that.

Dad sold his farm in the thirties. The fellow that got it went wacky and they put him in Ponoka. Dad couldn't sell it, he couldn't rent it. He couldn't get any money and he couldn't get the old age pension because he couldn't pass the means test since he owned the land! But his good friends in Vegreville helped him and I don't think he suffered much. He got by somehow. He died in 1940. By 1949 the estate had gone through the courts and was straightened out and my brother Floyd and I each got eight hundred dollars. My brother is now dead. He died of a stroke.

When I went to Vancouver I left my wife and two children Howard and Darlene. Howard is a plumber and lives in Vancouver. The last I heard of Darlene was that she was in Toronto.

I had twenty-five dollars and twenty-five cents when I arrived in Vancouver. I lived three weeks on that. My first job was packing a cord and a half of fir slabs up to the third floor. It took me five hours. The Chinaman I worked for took me to a restaurant and bought me a meal. Then I got work in the shipyard. My family sold what we had in Westlock and came out. Wages were forty-five cents an hour — if you could get a job. I worked in Vancouver for about two

years. Then I went to the Queen Charlotte Islands and logged for three years. Then I came up to this area where I have been ever since. I worked for the highways and then in 1960 for Kootenay Forest Products in their Marblehead camp as a watchman. I live here in my small trailer. Last Christmas I had a small stroke, but I am all right now and can look after myself. I even drive my '61 Pontiac.

Decore, John N.

Born on a farm 5½ miles North of Andrew, Alberta on 9 April, 1909.

His grandfather arrived in Canada in the year 1898 together with his family, his father then being a young lad of ten.

He took his elementary education at Sniatyn School situated near his place of birth. Grade 8 was taken in the Vegreville Public School where Miss Wright was his teacher and Mr. McCrea the principal. He then went through High School in Edmonton. Also went to Normal School in Edmonton in 1929-30. Taught school intermittently for 3 years off and on in order to go through the University during the depression years of the Hungry Thirties. Graduated in Arts in 1937 and Law in 1938. Admitted to the Bar in 1939 after being articled with Neil Primrose at Vegreville. Eventually he entered into partnership

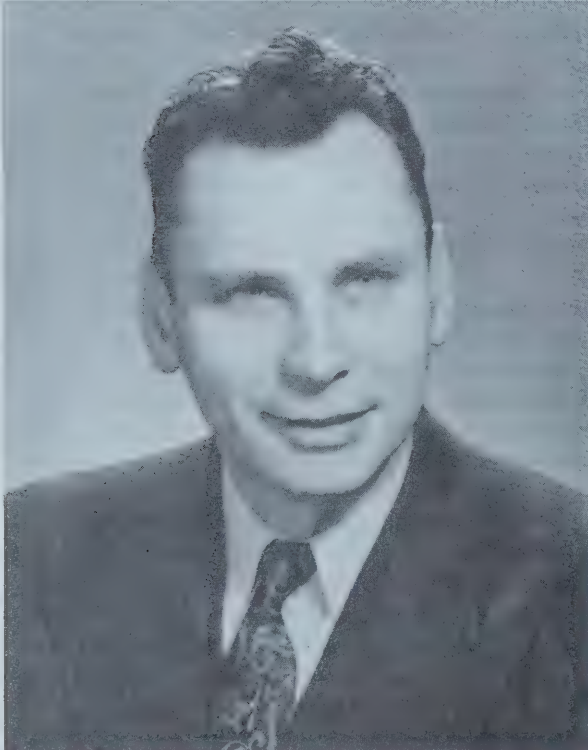
with Primrose for the practice of law under the firm name of Primrose and Decore and afterwards formed his own firm which after some time was expanded into the firm name of Decore, Koshuta, Sully, Broda, Kawulich and Decore with offices eventually both in Vegreville and Edmonton. Practiced law in Vegreville from the time of admission in 1939 to 1957 and then moved to his other office in Edmonton under the same firm name.

While in Vegreville was elected to the office of school trustee, became president of the Kinsmen Club and president of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce during which period of time he was instrumental, with others, in organizing the construction of the Vegreville swimming pool. Was also on the Advisory Board of the Vegreville General Hospital.

In 1949 he was elected member of the House of Commons representing the Vegreville Constituency and re-elected in 1953, serving as such member until 1957, at which time he chose not to run again as a candidate. Shortly after he was chosen as president of the Liberal Association of Alberta.

During his term as Member of Parliament he served on various House of Commons standing committees and was instrumental in obtaining for his constituency a number of institutions including among others the Vegreville Experimental Farm and the Ukrainian Pioneer Home at Elk Island Park.

In 1950 he was appointed as parliamentary advisor to the Canadian Delegation to the 5th Session of



John Decore, Member of Parliament for Vegreville Constituency, 1954.



Decore Family: Middle son, Laurence, on his first day of school. His older brother, John, to the right, is to accompany him, and the youngest one, Leighton, is most unhappy for being left behind, not being old enough. Mother Myrosia is giving last minute motherly instructions. On the extreme left, looking on, is one of the Wilson boys, Laurence's pal. Vegreville Decore home is in the background. Approximately 1950.

the General Assembly of the United Nations and then later at the same session acted as a Canadian delegate. In 1958 at the convention of the Liberal Party in Ottawa he moved the nomination of the Rt. Honourable Lester B. Pearson as leader of that party.

Was married in 1935 at Edmonton while still a university student to Myrosia Kupchenko and eventually had three sons, John Victor, Laurence George and Lionel Leighton. All sons are graduates in law and are practicing together in the same firm in Edmonton now under the firm name of Decore & Company.

In April, 1965 he was appointed as Chief Judge of the District Court of Northern Alberta as well as local judge of the Supreme Court. In 1975 was appointed Chief Judge for the District Court for the whole of the Province. Upon amalgamation of the District Court of Alberta and the Trial Division of the Supreme Court into the Court of Queen's Bench, became appointed as Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench on 30 June, 1979 and also an ex-officio Justice of the Court of Appeal.

Dinwoodie, Dick and Lorena by Lorena Dinwoodie

Mr. Richard Dinwoodie Sr. came with his bride from Scotland in 1855 and homesteaded in Manitoba. Later they went to live in Bottineau, North Dakota, where they found the soil not very productive for agriculture.

In 1890 they came to Alberta with their three sons, William, George and David. They took up residence at Strathcona, which as yet had not been incorporated into the town of Edmonton. It was here that two more children Frances (Fanny) and Richard Jr. (Dick) were born.

The early settlers could only come by railroad as far as Red Deer.

In 1901 the Dinwoodie family moved to what is now the Lavoy area, travelling by horses and wagons over prairie trails. No roads at this time. They settled on a farm on the north side of Sick Man Hill, overlooking the lake. It was there that they engaged in raising a fine herd of black Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Their first school was Nuttborough, which opened in 1903. This was where Richard Jr. (Dick) first started school. Miss Clark, from Scotland, was the first teacher. This was her first school in Canada. She lived with her relatives in Ranfurly.

The mother of the older members of the Dinwoodies died Aug. 14, 1898.

In the intervening years, four other children were born following the father's 2nd marriage: Anne, Agnes, Walter and Margaret.



At Dick Dinwoodie Home Aug., 1946. Four of the first family of Richard Dinwoodie Sr. Left to right: Dick, Fanny, Willie and Dave.

The family farm was also the site of the district Post Office, known as Dinwoodie Post Office. Also, there was a store here.

The mail was hauled by team all the way from Beaver Lake for as yet there was no railroad. The following day they delivered mail on to Gilpin Post Office on the way to Viking.

Trips to Edmonton for groceries would take as long as two weeks over prairie trails, braving the cold winter weather, as well as mosquitos and little black flies in the summer.

In talking of pioneer days, Dick complimented the early European settlers as being hard-working, honest citizens.

Early settlers' homes were built of logs with sod roofs. Their machinery was brought on rafts down the Saskatchewan River to Brosseau, then hauled the rest of the way by team and wagons. During the year of 1903 a prairie fire swept across the country from Lloydminster, destroying many homes.

Prairie chickens were in plentiful supply in early days and considered a delicacy. Wild strawberries, raspberries and saskatoons were choice fruits and added to a healthful diet for the early settlers.

With the coming of the railroad in 1905 the post office was relocated and renamed Lavoy.

Along the highway between Vegreville and Lavoy, there was an elevated area of land called "Dinner Hill", due to the fact that many travellers stopped there to eat their lunch. No convenient restaurants in those days, and as an elderly Minister's wife said, "There was very little money in pioneer days."

In the fall of 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie Sr. were invited to Edmonton for the ceremony of Alberta becoming a province of the Dominion of Canada. It was a memorable event.

Sorrow came to the family when Mr. Dinwoodie

died April 15, 1906. Two of his sons, George and Dick, went to southern Alberta and took up homesteads, 27 miles south of Youngstown. They both served overseas in World War 1. Their brother, Willie, came and took care of their farms during their absence. George was taken prisoner-of-war in the battle of Vimy Ridge. Food was not plentiful in Germany. He was kindly treated, but attributed his survival to the Red Cross food parcels which he received. After the war was over they both returned to their homesteads.

After experiencing many dry years, they returned to live at Lavoy, April, 1925. Eventually they settled on a farm Section 3 T. 51-R. 13 West of the 4th Meridian — south of Lavoy. A pleasure to be settled once more to enjoy family reunions, friends and our church.

With their 15-30 McCormick-Deering tractor and the Municipal grader, they built new roads in what is now called Minburn County, which passed the inspection of the Engineer from the University of Alberta.

They also did custom work breaking up new land for production the following year. Much of the land at that time was still growing bush.

Our two sons, Clyde and Allan, attended a two-room school in the Aplomb district, a distance of two miles from home. High School up to grade XI was taught there.

The greatest pleasure we enjoyed in recent years was having our two grandsons come with their parents, Clyde and Betty Dinwoodie. They enjoyed many happy times on the farm, taking pictures and finding interesting beauty spots.

The grandsons, Sidney and Gordon, are now grown, living in Wetaskiwin, but we still enjoy the same happy times together.

On a little knoll near the pasture was a special place where the crocus grew in abundance. Our first flowers of spring.

Richard (Dick) was the oldest remaining pioneer of the Lavoy district. At the time of his death, June 3, 1976 he was 81 years of age. His brothers had all predeceased him.

Eventually our farm was sold and my son Allan and I moved to Vegreville April 22, 1977. We enjoy living here, but still enjoy occasionally seeing the old farm and our former neighbors.

The account of pioneer days was the information given to me by my husband Richard (Dick) Dinwoodie.

Dinwoodie, Richard

It was not until Akasoo Hill loomed into view that Richard Dinwoodie's new bridge felt at home in Canada. Somehow the hill, as it stood out above the



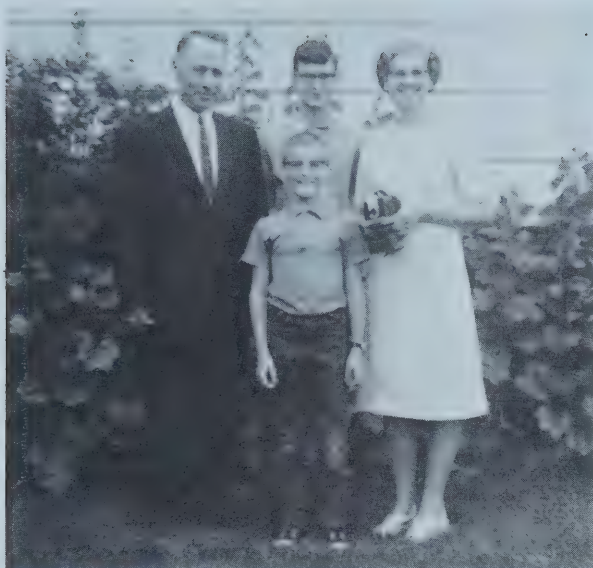
This picture of a Push Binder, unique of its kind, was a machine pushed by horses. It was the property of G. and R. Dinwoodie and was first used south of Youngstown, Alberta in 1922, when crops were 6 to 10 inches high. It was used as a header. In April 1925 it was shipped to Lavoy and used as a header one year and as a binder for several subsequent years. This binder was of special interest to many people. One day Dr. R. M. Reid asked, "What kind of machine is that which is pushed by horses?"

barren plain below, reminded Janet Dinwoodie of the hills of Scotland. She had come to Canada in 1899 as the second wife of Richard. The first Mrs. Dinwoodie had passed away at an early age and had left five young children, Georgie, Willie, David, Fanny, and Dick, so that Janet had her hands full from the very beginning of her life in Canada. It was not long before Richard decided to move to a new location east of Edmonton to an area which later bore his name Dinwoodie Post Office, N.W.T. very near Akasoo Hill. Some years later (1905) the Canadian Northern Railway constructed a railroad through the area by-passing the Dinwoodie ranch by three miles. A railway station was built and around it grew the village of Lavoy, thus named in honor of another pioneer settler. It was necessary to move the Post Office to the new village so Richard Dinwoodie built a house and lean-to which housed the Post Office. This house still stands bearing much of the original construction and is on the north-east end of the main street of Lavoy.

Life was not easy for the family but since Richard was a very enterprising man he soon was appointed Justice of the Peace for the Dinwoodie Electoral District, N.W.T. Records indicate that he did much to organize the first Agricultural Fair for the Vermilion Valley district and was their first chairman. In 1906 a Life Membership was presented to Janet Dinwoodie.

The original documents covering the appointments as Justice of the Peace, Postmaster, and Postmistress, as well as the life membership certificate are still in existence and copies have been submitted to the Vegreville Historical Society for inclusion in this publication.

In addition to the five children of the first family, Richard and Janet were blessed with three girls and two boys, Anne, Agnes, Robert, Walter and Margaret. Robert died in infancy.



Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Dinwoodie and sons, Sidney in the back, Gordon in front, July, 1967.

In 1906, Richard Dinwoodie made a business trip to Edmonton. The bridge over the river at Fort Saskatchewan was still under construction. It was necessary for passengers to disembark from the train on one side, cross the tressles on foot, and board another train on the other side of the bridge. Richard missed his footing and was drowned. This left Janet with an infant in arms and three other very small children to care for. It was then that she applied for the position of Postmistress and was successful in receiving this appointment. Income from such a position in those days was almost negligible. Not to be defeated she turned her hand to anything that would bring in a few pennies. The children of the first family soon became self-supporting and helped in many ways with the younger children. Each of the first family became successful farmers and continued to live in the Lavoy-Vegreville district for many years.

Janet encouraged her children to take advantage of educational opportunities available to them. Anne chose banking as a career; Agnes, Margaret and Walter turned to teaching. Both Agnes and Walter obtained temporary teaching certificates at the age of 16 and later attended the Camrose Normal School where they received their permanent certificates.

Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie remarried, becoming Mrs. George Walz. There were three girls born of this union, Ethel and Edith (twins) who became registered nurses, and Nell, who like her sisters, Agnes and Margaret, chose teaching.

Sons and grandchildren of the first family of Dinwoodies continue to live in Vegreville; Margaret



Allan Dinwoodie, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Dinwoodie, July, 1967.



Picture of a Pioneer Family. Taken June 10, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie and children (l. to r.) — Fanny, Willie standing, Dave sitting in front, Dick held by his mother, George standing on her left. Their mother made all of their clothes, including carding wool and knitting their socks or stockings.

(Dinwoodie) Beacom is the only survivor of the second family; Edith Priebe and Ethel Sainsbury, and Nell Napper are still resident in Alberta.

Many amusing stories have come out of the teaching years of this family and most of the years were during the depression. Shoes were very difficult to come by and were a prized possession of any youth fortunate enough to own a pair. One day a lad's father drove past the school in his cart, only to discover to his dismay that his son was playing football with his shoes on (the ball being a fair-sized stone). The young man continued to play ball — but bare-footed after a severe dressing down from his dad.

Children at schools in the district were paid a bounty for crows' feet. The teacher had not seen much evidence of any great quantity of crows, although many pairs of feet were brought to him for bounty payments. After a little investigation he learned to keep the crows' feet and to burn them after school hours in the bot-bellied stove. Bounty payments dropped drastically.



CANADA
North-West Territories

Alfred S. F.
Lieutenant Governor.

By His Honour *Amable Guimond-Fortet*
Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories.

To all to whom these Presents shall come or whom the same concern--
GREETING.

Know ye that having confidence in the loyalty, integrity and ability of

Richard Dinwoodie of *Sagreville*,
in the Provisional District of *Alberta* I, under and by virtue of

the powers in that behalf vested in me, have appointed and do hereby appoint him the said
Richard Dinwoodie a Justice of the Peace in
and for the North-West Territories, with all and every the powers, authority, privileges and
advantages to the office of Justice of the Peace by right and by law appertaining.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territories at Government House, Regina, this *fourth*
day of *December* A.D. *1902* and in the *second* year of His Majesty's Reign.

BY COMMAND,

Edw. Smyth
Deputy Territorial Secretary.



Letter of Appointment to Postmastership.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.

Ottawa, 18th November, 1903

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the
Postmaster General has been pleased to appoint you to be Postmaster of
.....D^{re} Dinwoodie..... in the Electoral County
of District of Ottawa..... in the
Province of..... and
Dominion of Canada.

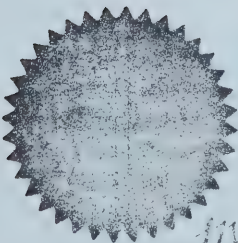
You are, therefore, hereby authorized to exercise all the functions
and discharge all the duties appertaining to the said office, according
to law.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Richard D. [Signature]

Deputy Postmaster General.



Mr. Richard Dinwoodie
Dinwoodie
Ottawa



Letter of Appointment to Postmastership.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.

Ottawa, 21 Sept 1906.

Mrs. Dinwoodie,

I have the honour to inform you that the
Postmaster General has been pleased to appoint you to be Postmaster of
Lavoie in the Electoral County
of Strathcona in the
Province of Alberta and
Dominion of Canada.

You are, therefore, hereby authorized to exercise all the functions
and discharge all the duties appertaining to the said office, according
to law.

I am, Mrs. Dinwoodie,

Your obedient servant,

Deputy Postmaster General.



Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie
Lavoie
Dist. Strathcona

6-1,500-23-6-1905.

Alfa:

Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie, appointed postmaster at Lavoie, Sept. 21, 1906.

The Vermilion Valley and Beaver Lake Agricultural Society

In accordance with the terms of a resolution unanimously passed at a meeting of the
Directors of the said Society held on Saturday, the second day of June, A. D. 1906,
hereby confers on

Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie

Life Membership Ticket

In the Society, subject to all terms, rights and privileges granted under the ordinary
Annual Membership Tickets.

Thomas H. Tierney
President.

Marshall A. Worth
Secretary.

Life membership ticket conferred on Mrs. Richard Dinwoodie, by the Vermilion Valley and Beaver Lake Agricultural Society, 1906.

Dowhaniuk, Bill and Rita by Rita (Barrie) Dowhaniuk

Bill Dowhaniuk took all his schooling in Vegreville before going to Edmonton to work for Air Transport Command, loading cargo planes for the north. Then he drove convoys on the Alaska Highway as far north as Whitehorse. After that, he drove a wrecker at the Namao Airport during the building stage. Back home again, in 1944 Bill and Clarence "Jeff" Schmidt started a trucking service called "Vegreville Transfer". In 1952, George Dowhaniuk purchased Clarence's share, and in 1968, Bill bought out George and now operates the thriving business with his two sons, David in the Edmonton office, "Central Carriers", and Edward working out of Vegreville, along with Bill and his wife.

Along the way, Bill met and married Rita Barrie, a pretty local girl with a sweet voice. Since then both have been much involved with their growing family and with local activities. Always sportsminded, Bill played and coached fastball for the Vegreville Transfer Bobcats in the '40's when they got to the provincial quarter finals several times. Bill assisted in coaching minor baseball for the K of C team and also

helped in minor hockey when his boys played. He has been in the Fire Dept. since 1951; in Elks since 1947 where he has held all offices including Exalted Ruler in 1961; a K of C since 1956; and he was



Left to right: Shirley, David, Gerald, Rita, Edward, Patrick, and Bill Dowhaniuk, in their new home, 1968.



"Vegreville Transfer" fleet in 1951 — from small start to big business.

president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1974. He was chairman of the first Parish Council of St. Martin's church in 1968. Rita has done choral work, and has been active in CWL, Royal Purple, and IODE. Both Rita and Bill still enjoy curling. The five Dowhaniuk children were all born and raised here. Now Gerald, Shirley-Anne, and David all live in Edmonton, and Edward and Patrick remain in town.

Dowhaniuk, Maxim and Anna

submitted by Helen (Hunka) Austin, Granddaughter

It was most interesting for me, Max and Anna's granddaughter, to take an afternoon off, to talk to my grandmother about, not only her and grandpa's heritage, but also which led to mine of which I'm truly proud.

Maxim came to Canada from Kolomyja, Austria, in 1902 at the tender age of 12. It was difficult to leave the old country where he could attend school along with his brother and sister, but nevertheless, his parents felt that they wanted something more than what their country could offer their family.

He came over the Atlantic by ship and it isn't very clear as to what part of Canada they came ashore, but soon after arriving in Canada, they boarded the train along with many, many other families and started their trip to the West. Upon arriving in Edmonton, they were taken by a team of horses to an area north-east of Edmonton to homestead where Two Hills is situated today.

Money wasn't too plentiful during those years, so Max soon found a job of working on the railway. The railway was being built and plenty of man power was needed to get this completed. Not only did this bring cash into his pocket, but it also gave him a chance to learn to speak English and learn the ways of Canadians.

Now no man, even then, would care to do these



Maxim and Anna Dowhaniuk, 1925.

things if he didn't have an eye on some gal who he wanted to be his wife. This is where my grandmother came into the picture but first it is only fair to give some history of her early life.

Anna Nikiforuk, along with her parents, brother and sister came over to Canada by ship June 13, 1903. She was only 7 years old then, therefore, she couldn't really remember much of her boat trip when I interviewed her. They travelled by train to Edmonton, where they were met by a cousin of the family from Calgary who had emigrated to Canada a few years earlier. The three children were given \$1.00 each from this cousin as a welcoming gesture to Canada and with that the family travelled by team to a homestead near Andrew. By the time they reached their new home, they had spent \$2.50, which only left them 50¢. It is said that her dad then took 25¢ to go and find a job on the track and left his wife and three children the other 25¢ to live on while he was away. The Nikiforuk family moved after a year to an area near Royal Park and later bought a homestead at Two Hills.

Max and Anna met at Easter and were married the following November 17, 1910. Their wedding reception was very small. A few neighbors, close by, gathered at the farm home. Gifts consisted of a half-yard of material, a nickel or a dime for donation.

They lived with Max's parents over the winter. In the spring they moved to their homestead of 160 acres which Max had bought for \$10.00 earlier in his life. He had 11 acres out of 160 already broken. On it was a two-room log house. That spring, Anna did all the mud-plastering. In her log house she had a table, bench and log bed which was shaved flat on one side. Hay was put in as a mattress which then was topped with gunny sacks. Over this went her snow-white sheets.

Max and Anna broke more land with their two horses and the neighbor's two horses hooked to a walking plow. They owned three harrows. They did all their seeding that spring by hand and in the fall, a neighbor, Bill Pylypuk, threshed for them. Of the animals, Max and Anna owned three cows, one pig and eight chickens which were given to Anna by her mother. They dug their water well by hand using a spade and shovel. That winter, Max built his barn out of poles, thatched tightly with straw.

By their third anniversary, Max and Anna had 120 acres broken. At this time, they also had their full line of needed machinery. They considered themselves very wealthy. They never considered themselves to have ever had hardships. They always had food on the table. Maybe it wasn't as fancy or the variety wasn't there as we have today but never did they go hungry. In 1917 they owned their first car.

In 1926, they sold their homestead at Luzan and bought a ½ section south of Vegreville in the Imperial School District. They were the first Ukrainian settlers to come into the area. There was only a shack when they arrived but they soon undertook the task of building a new home. Community life was very small and being the first Ukrainians, they were looked down upon. Grandma refused to talk about any ill-treatment that her family may have suffered because of this and her only comment was, "All this is over and done with, you forget about it as I have done." Very wise words and I truly respect my grandma for this.

Max served as a school trustee in Duvernay and for the Imperial School District. Both Max and Anna were devoted and active with their Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They taught their children strict religious education as well as respect for their church. The children were taught to be very silent and cross themselves whenever they walked past the church as they did so often when they went to school at Luzan.

If they didn't learn their prayers or forgot to say them, their punishment was to kneel on wheat. They had a minister come in once every three months from Edmonton to someone's house. All the neighbors would come in to worship.

Christmas was the most meaningful season of the year. The Dowhaniuk's would go to their parents place and some years the event was celebrated at home. For decoration, hay would be put on the table with a beautiful white tablecloth on top. An oat sheaf was put in a corner, and a harness put under the table. All this was to represent the birth of the Christ Child in the manger. Their menu consisted of Kutia (wheat), jellied fish, cabbage rolls, broad beans, beets, mashed beans, stewed dry fruits, mushrooms, assortment of prunes, raisin pyroghy and kolach. We still try and carry out the menu today. My family look forward with great anticipation to go to Grandma's every Christmas Eve.

The couple had fourteen children with three dying in the early 1910's. Those who are living and are married are as follows:

1. Mary, who married Dmetro Hnidan in 1929.
2. William, who married Freda Gienger in 1937.
3. Mike, who is single.
4. Rose, who married Peter Hunka in 1936.
5. Dmetro, who married Mary Frankiw in 1956.
6. John who married Elsie Dearden in 1955.
7. Walter who married Lucille Dubuc in 1946.
8. Elsie, who married Ted Couillard in 1952.
9. Nick who married Nancy Klym in 1949.
10. Roy, who married Cathy Engel in 1956.
11. Nestor, who married Joyce Sorochnan in 1955.

All the boys, with the exception of William and Nestor, enlisted in the army. John and Walter served overseas during World War II and John served again during the Korean War. The family was blessed to have both of them come home.

Max died in 1947 from cancer. His wife, Anna, lived for a time on the family farm before retiring to Vegreville. She now lives in the Senior Citizens' Home in Vegreville.

Dowhaniuk, Victor and Kathrina by Rita (Barrie) Dowhaniuk

Mr. Victor Dowhaniuk was born in 1895 at Bukovina, Austria, and came to Canada in 1907 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dowhaniuk, to settle in the area now known as the town of Hairy Hill.

Kathrina Eliuk came to Hairy Hill June 14, 1901, in the vessel Armenia, port of arrival, Halifax, with her parents.

Victor and Kathrina were married September 21,



Golden Wedding Anniversary of Victor and Katherine Dowhaniuk (seated). Standing, (l. to r.) — their children: Mary, Bill, Alice, George, Rose. Sept., 1964.



Victor Dowhaniuk's garage on 52 Ave. across from CN station, 1920's.



George and Olga Dowhaniuk on left side. Sons Brian (left) and Allen (right); daughters Linda (centre left) and Betty Jane (right). About 1968.

1914, and farmed in the Hairy Hill district for nine years. Mr. Dowhaniuk mentioned many times the hardship of hauling grain with sleigh and horses to Vegreville only in the winter because of the trails they could follow. They also had to line up for three days before they could unload. Born to them were three daughters and two sons: Alice of Edmonton, Mary (Dowhaniuk) Waytkiw of Lethbridge, Rose (Dowhaniuk) Poznansky of Edmonton, George Dowhaniuk of Mississauga, Ontario, and Bill Dowhaniuk of Vegreville. Bill was born July 2, 1922, and George was born March 5, 1926.

In 1923 the family moved to Vegreville and Mr. Dowhaniuk operated the Central Garage across the road from the C. N. Station where the Co-op Shopping Centre is now located. Finding the garage too small, he built a new and larger building in 1929 known as Royal Motors, which is now the site of the Texaco Service Station. Depression came and in 1935 he had to give it up as he had too much credit for those days. He worked for Thomas Garage as a mechanic and then later as an auto body mechanic.

Victor and Kathrina celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in September of 1964. Mr. Dowhaniuk passed away December 1, 1969 at the age of 74 years. He is survived by his wife.

George Dowhaniuk was the only child born in Vegreville. He married Olga Semotiuk October 1, 1947. Born to them were four children, two sons and two daughters: Brian, born 1947; Allan, born 1954; Linda, born 1951; and Betty Jane, born 1956. George was a partner in the Vegreville Transfer business for a few years before he sold out in 1968 to Bill, and moved to Mississauga, Ontario. The only child that stayed in Alberta is Brian and his wife Patricia (Youz-wishen), who are living in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Drozdowich, Nick and Lena by Leona (Bienvenu) Drozdowich

The Drozdowich (Nick and Lena) family moved to Vegreville in 1925, residing eight miles south and slightly west of town. They raised a family of six there: Beatrice (Mrs. Rum LaFleur) of California;



Steve and Edith Drozdowich, 1923.

Anne (who passed away at age 21); Mary (Mrs. Harold Dayskin) of Vancouver; Irene (Mrs. Jim Petrup) of New Westminster; Gordon (and Leona) of Vernon; Nelson (and Gilda) of Abbotsford.

The Drozdowich Family moved to Cloverdale, B.C. in 1945. Mrs. Drozdowich still resides there. Mr. Drozdowich passed away in October of 1978.

Drozdowich, Steve

by S. S. Drozdowich

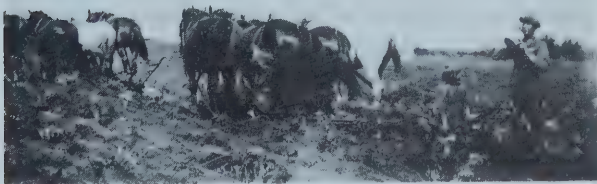
My dad, Steve Drozdowich, came to Canada about 1898 at the age of fourteen. He worked at many places in Manitoba; he finally arrived at Rocanville, Saskatchewan, where he got a very stony homestead. He broke up as much of it as he could with oxen and a walking plow. He told me that one year he seeded sixty acres of Marquis wheat and it all froze black. He and my mother lived for a year on \$300, (chicken feed these days) but they made out all right. Later they bought a one-half section across the road.

In 1913, he bought a Rumely threshing outfit and did a lot of custom threshing for many years. He built a huge barn on the homestead in the side of a hill. The lower part was made of stone, of which there was more than enough in that area.

I think it was about 1920 when Albert Kelly came to Rocanville to visit his brother, who was one of our neighbors. My Dad and Mr. A. Kelly took a trip out to Alberta. My Dad bought Section 13-51-15, south of Vegreville. Mr. Kelly bought the L. Knies farm. We had an auction sale on the old place in Saskatchewan and moved to Vegreville in the spring of 1921. We built a house on the new farm. In the meantime, we lived on the Kelly place.

The following year, in the spring, we had a lot of sickness — scarlet fever and diphtheria — my brother passed away. We were quarantined, but we still will never forget the kindness of our new neighbors who looked after the burial.

The first year on the new farm we broke 180 acres with horses and walking ploughs, and planted wheat



Breaking sod on Steve Drozdowich's farm at Vegreville, 1923; one of the Drozdowich girls brought a cold drink for Claude Sandercock.

on the new breaking. There was little if any wheat grown in Vegreville area at that time.

My Dad lived on the place until 1944 when he sold out and retired to town. Over the years he held many positions, among them secretary for Ideal School, trustee, and also served on old Municipal District of Patricia. When taxes on a quarter of land were \$21.00 or so, not much in the way of roads, but we got around the best we could. Jalopies in the summer and horses in the winter.

In 1936, I bought a section of land south of Vegreville and farmed all of it until 1948. After some health problems at that time I got going again and farmed the south half until 1965. At this time I sold the farm and moved to Summerland, B.C. One of my sisters still lives in Vegreville, one in Vancouver, B.C., and one at Airdrie, Alberta.

Drysdale, Devra

Canada's First Honey Queen

Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, March 7, 1969 marked the scene of the first crowning of Miss Honey Queen of Canada in a contest sponsored by the Canadian Beekeepers' Council — the lucky winner was Miss Devra Drysdale, fifteen years of age on March 13.

Devra's success was first brought about at the Vegreville Jr. High Home Economics level where each student entering was to create an original recipe using honey. The judging done by Miss S. Huseley (Dental Hygienist), Mr. Rogalski, (Vice-Principal at Peter Svarich), and Miss P. Nichiporuk, was based mainly on the quality and originality of the baked product, and knowledge of the use of honey. The winner's entry (Devra's) was then sent to Edmonton for provincial judging.



Canada's 1969 Honey Queen, Miss Devra Drysdale. Being congratulated by Mr. Don Mazankowski, M.P. and Mr. Bud Olson, Federal Minister of Agriculture.

The contest was part of the National Honey Program conducted by R. G. Evans and Associates Marketing Agency Ltd., Edmonton.

A panel of impartial judges chosen by R. G. Evans and Associates, chose Devra as the best among the Alberta High School and university entries, thus proclaiming her as Miss Honey Queen of Alberta.

On March 6, Devra, chaperoned by Miss Nichiporuk, flew to Ottawa for the final competition where she was to compete against seven other provincial winners. The age group of the contestants was 14-21 — Devra being the youngest. The judges for the finals consisted of Madame Benoit, Margo Oliver of Week End Magazine, Maggie Grant of Canadian Magazine and Mr. Bob D. Bird of Creston, B.C. Honey Packers Association.

Among some of the prizes Devra has won are an Elna sewing machine, motorized surf board, White Stag sportswear, Jantzen bathing suit, Scott paper dress, Parker pen and pencil set, McBrine four-piece luggage set, an autographed cookbook from Madame Benoit, a return trip to Ottawa and a one-month trip to England where she visited a Food Exposition.

In Ottawa Devra and Miss Nichiporuk were honored to have lunch with Agriculture Minister Olson and met Prime Minister P. E. Trudeau and the Hon. John Diefenbaker in person. Mr. D. Mazankowski helped make it possible to have Devra announced in the House of Commons on March 10.

The Winning Honey Recipe Honey Pumpkin Loaf

Sift together:	In another large bowl beat together:
1½ cup flour	½ cup honey (liquid or creamed)
1 tsp. baking powder	½ cup brown sugar (well-packed)
1 tsp. baking soda	1 cup canned pumpkin
¼ tsp. salt	2 eggs
¼ tsp. allspice	⅝ cup oil
¼ tsp. nutmeg	
½ tsp. cinnamon	

Add flour mixture to this and beat by hand until smooth.

Add ½ cup chopped walnuts.

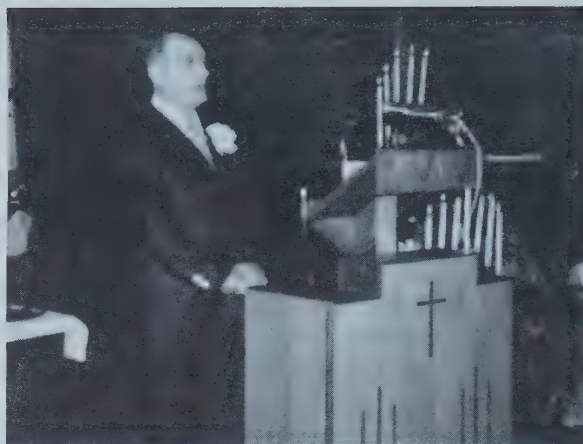
Bake for 1 hour at 325° F.

Yield: One large loaf.

Dubuc, Albert and Phyllis by "Bert" Dubuc

Since I was asked to relate a brief history, here goes—

To begin with, I spent all of my boyhood days on the farm south of town, and when my brothers left



Bert Dubuc singing at the wedding of his daughter, Ruby, in St. Martin's Church, 1972.

home, I stayed to help Dad (Henry Dubuc, Sr.) as he was a sick man. We were poor but had enough to eat and we had music, lots of music, to fill in our spare time. Well, as I said we were poor, so at the age of twenty-six I still had no means to get around except my old bike, not in the best shape but very easy to pedal. Now there was a little French girl whom I had idolized for weeks and months; when she gave me that most charming smile, I thought God loved me for sure. So I started to see her every weekend, and after two years I was determined to propose marriage. One beautiful Sunday I rehearsed all the most convincing words I could muster and I memorized them as I sat on my old bike, heading toward her farm about three miles away. I was so busy repeating my planned speech that I didn't notice the chain grabbing at my pants' leg, and as I pedalled eagerly, the chain chewed just as fast up my trouser leg. Then I was rolling down a steep hill — no brakes! — couldn't stop! — so I just hung on while that chain kept chewing till my suspenders were so tight that I thought my neck would break. Sping! just in time, those tough old suspenders broke and my life was saved, but not my pants, so that was the end of my first proposal. But love finds a way, so all next week I practised more endearing words and I was most hopeful when I set out again next Sunday on my bike for Bienvenu's farm. I was pedalling fast as it was turning dusk when suddenly there was a thump! and a sickening stench as if a hundred rotten eggs had burst in my nose. I had hit a skunk! I was so mad I grabbed an old post to try to kill the vile creature that had wrecked my second proposal and also my best (and last) pair of pants. Just a few minutes before, life smelled like roses; now everything, including me, stank! Even my dad chased me out that night! But next week I composed and prepared again, and Glory! Alleluia! this time I got to my sweetheart's place

safely. But when the right moment arrived, I forgot all my fancy words and I just blurted: "Phyllis, I'd like to get married"! And she agreed!

From then on, we've had a great life together. At first we were on the farm; when Dad died in middle age, Mother stayed on with us. After our first two children were born, we finally had a honeymoon, thanks to my sister Terry and her new husband, Ken Reilly, who took us on a trip with them. Fifteen years ago we moved to town with our three children and dear old Mum stayed with us till her death; we still miss her very much. Phyllis and I both worked at the hospital, and I still work there. Now as most people know, God gave me a fair voice, so I like to help out, leading the singing at church and other functions. And I've been pounding the ivories all over the country for years and years. Once when I came home in the small hours after playing for a hard-time dance (I was still wearing my hobo costume), I couldn't find my house keys, and I couldn't wake my sleeping wife. So I got my neighbors, Tillapaughs, to help me climb up to open a window, and just then along came a police car! Of course, the cop was suspicious when his light flashed on this strange scene, so he accused me of being a thief. But he soon backed off when wee little Alberta Tillapaugh turned on him and angrily informed him that I was really the owner of the house. It all ended okay with all of us, including the poor policeman, laughing about it over a very early morning coffee party.

Phyllis and I are blessed with loving children and grandchildren.

Maurice, our son, married Paulette McKenzie and they have a boy, Jason.

Ruby, our daughter, married Chris Van Moll and they now have a real little boy, Erick Toller.

Our youngest, Edmund, still has dashing days ahead until Miss Right comes along. May God bless us all and you, too.

Dubuc Family

by Joseph P. Dubuc

Our great-great-grandfather was Charles Dubuc, married to a Du-Maurier, both descendants of French nobility. Grandfather was Henri Dubuc Sr. married to a Bienvenue girl. Grandad was a very strict, exacting fellow, heavy on the discipline which I experienced when I was left at their place occasionally to be babysat.

My father was Henri Jr., married to Melina Poul-in. Grandfather's homestead was the old white house which still stands on the hill on the Bruce road, three miles to the south of Vegreville. Our homestead was one mile directly to the west. My parents worked very hard, trying to improve their holdings, provide



Evariste Dubuc and wife Alma, about 1910.



Rene Dubuc and mother Melina examine the remains of the old buggy he used to visit and court his wife Yvonne. 1974.

for their family, and raise a family of four girls and five boys. The two first girls, Helene and Antoinette, died in infancy; then five boys came along; another girl died at two, and lastly came Theresa. Dad died in 1946 and Mother died Jan. 11, 1979.

I personally stayed home and helped with the farm work till I was eighteen and I sure know the drudgery of walking behind a plow or harrow drawn by small, weak horses. Rene then became old enough to help my folks although he was crippled by a bad encounter with polio in his childhood. I went

out to “try my own wings” and got my first job with Ken Watt, who was then the agent for UGG and B A Oil Company. A little later I obtained an oil agency of my own at Lavoy. The first two years I made so little money that had it not been for the generosity and goodness of the natives there who invited me to share many meals with them, I would have starved to death. Is it any wonder I am so fond of Lavoyites?



Joe and Lucille Dubuc's 25th Wedding Anniversary, July, 1964. Children (l. to r.) — Claudette, Rosalie, Maxine, Joey, Elaine.



Gustave and Marie Rose L'Heureux, (St. Arneault), parents of Lucille Dubuc (Mrs. Joe); their wedding in 1903 or so. Lucille was born at the Ininsfree Hotel, still existing and not much changed.



Maxine Dubuc, chosen by Chamber of Commerce to present flowers to Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of his visit to Vegreville, 1951.



Henri and Melina Dubuc (Poulin). Their wedding August 1907. Parents of still living Joseph, Rene, Albert and Roland; Deceased Antoinette, Helene, Cecile, Edmond, and Therese.



The Threshing Outfit referred to in Joe Dubuc's Golden Age in “The River Crossing” featuring George Bizou Lambert. Left to right on steam engine — Engineer Smart, fireman Evariste Dubuc, Waterman Henri Dubuc, and thresherman operator Joe Lecompte. Others in the background would be Arthur and Henry Poulin, Hormisdas and Phylis Dubuc, Ed Belisle, perhaps Ed. Pagee, 1919.



Left: buggy, Henri Dubuc Jr., father of Joe. Right: buggy, Herman (Hormisdas); In front of house: Phylas and Zeleda, later Mrs. R. Nadeau; Marie Rose; Adelina, 2nd wife of Henri Sr.; Wilfred; Ovila; Henri Sr. Early 1900's.



Lucille Dubuc's (L'Heureux) pupils at Dubuc School, 1936. Felix Pagee, Omer Dubuc, N. Cholak, Roland Dubuc, Laurent Dubuc, Herbie and Sammy Little, Marcel Poulin, Rene Pagee.



Lucille L'Heureux's pupils at Dubuc School, 1936. Rita Barrie, Marie Cholak, Mary Wasyleski, Florence Poulin, Anna Tetreau, Eva Little, Barb Hornby, Rita Tetreau, Terry Dubuc, Anita Dubuc.



The Henry Nadeaus and Maxine Dubuc on street in Edmonton. The Nadeaus were foster parents of Lucille L'Heureux (Dubuc) and farmed south and east of Lavoy, 1949.



Experimental Farm Picnic, 1962. Mrs. Fuller, Yvonne Dubuc, Mrs. Ida Beaudette, Eva Plouffe, Oria Forcade, ?, Mrs. Eickmeyer, Mrs. Dumont, Mary Bourget, Mrs. Philip Gafka, Mrs. Patch, Mrs. Jeffreys. Seated in centre is Fr. John Garnier.



Experimental farm picnic, 1962. Mr. McMullen, George Bourget, ?, Arthur Beaudette, ?, Jake Gafka, Philip Gafka, John Leach, ?, ?, Buster Jennings. Centre seated, Fr. John Garnier.



The Henry Dubucs in front of old house south of Vegreville about 1925. Left to right, back: Rene, Joseph, Albert, front — Mother Melina, Therese (on knees), Edmond, Roland, father Henri.

About 1937 I got a better job as grain buyer for the Midland and Pacific Grain Company at Vegreville, replacing Alfred Johnson. Now, with a little more security, in 1939 I married Lucille L'Heureux, an adopted girl from Lavoy whose parents both died when she was yet small. She was raised by Henri Nadeau and family. We raised a family of six, including our first born Dolore, who was taken from us, in horrible agony as a result of a simple appendectomy. Next came Maxine, now Mrs. John Gratton, a nurse at Weinloss Clinic, Edmonton. Next, Claudette, Mrs. Darryl Horyn, living in Vegreville; Elaine, wife of Bernie Nikiforuk and mother of two boys (another trying to make an appearance); Rosalie next, Mrs. Don Pawluik, living at Edmonton. And lastly, a cherished son, Joey (seems as reincarnated Dolare) in his fourth year at the University of Alberta.

Being quite musical, by nine I played the violin fairly well, and did my first commercial dance job with Dad, Mother and Uncle Herman, getting one whole dollar for the evening. But father, not being well, could not do many engagements and I soon latched on with other bands such as: Lavoy Orchestra, Innisfree Red Jackets, Rhythm Queens of Edmonton, Vegreville Swingsters, and in 1940 I got my three brothers with me and formed my own group. We were very successful, played average of three times weekly, and could have had engagements for three times more. I took part in the Elks' Band and recall fondly other members as Chas. Brinton, Harry Ragon, Cecil Morton, Roscoe and Bob Woods, Ernie Foreman, Roman Svarich and many others.

Wages for musicians were very low. I remember walking the four miles from our farm home, travelling by car with Fred Reesor, John Huzil, Wally Kittle, Bill Bushko, Jiggs Bigham, etc. to Two Hills,



The Joe Dubuc Orchestra, 1940. (L. to r.) — Joseph, Edmond, Roland (Kit), and Albert. Above picture taken at Vermilion School of Agriculture at the annual Rose Ball, Vermilion.

St. Paul, Bonnyville, playing till three AM, thence back at Vegreville walking home again and reaching there just in time to begin farm work with no sleep at all. All this for three dollars! But a dollar was worth something then, not as today.

In 1950, still as agent for the grain company and B. A. Oil, I entered the school busing industry for the County of Minburn and oversaw the operation of this till 1970. I still get a big lump in my throat when I come across some of my passengers, the "angels with dirty faces" I called them then, now well grown up with families of their own.

In 1942 we built this home we still live in, although now old and worse off for wear and tear. About 1968 I realized my health was leaving me, and upon the doctor's advice, abandoned many of my business affiliations. My financial position was not very affluent, and, my not being of pensionable age yet, created problems. It is fortunate that in 1961, after raising our family, my wife Lucille went back teaching, and helping keep the wolf away from our door. She is still teaching.

About 1947, I put in a stint of several years on the Civic Council of Vegreville, and am proud that with the support of the then Mayors, Bill Morton and John



Prime Minister St. Laurent visits Vegreville, 1948. Maxine Dubuc, having been selected by the C. of C., is shown above being hugged by the Prime Minister after presenting him with flowers. Behind are Mayor Bill Morton and John Decore, now Chief Justice.



April 22, 1972. Adolph Kotyshyn presents Joe Dubuc with a gold watch on the occasion of his retirement as Sec. Treas. for 14 years and co-founder of the Alberta School Bus Operators Association. Mr. Kotyshyn was co-partner with Joe responsible for the existence of this Association, and its first president. To left is 1972 president Raymond Perepelitza, and right, Gerald Weber, a director, from Cardinal Coach Lines, Calgary.



Ken and Terry Riley visiting in the Okanagan, 1973.



Mrs. Melina Dubuc and daughter Terry Riley, at Pysanka Park, Vegreville. This was Terry's first visit here. Early 1970's.



Clarence Wilkins, grandson of Lachapelles, 1921. Horse and delivery cart, by old Lachapelle shack. Clarence delivered meat for Hugh Rose and Tom Casson with this outfit on 46 St. and 54 Ave.



The Lachapelles, 1920. Old Antoine Lachapelle, in doorway, his wife in wheelchair, granddaughters Cecile and Aurore Balcaen. The group were just back from a fair parade in which they depicted Acadians.



The John Roth 60th Wedding Anniversary, Viking, 1976.

Koshuta, and fellow councillors plus Armand Mercier as Firechief, I was highly instrumental in improving and obtaining a conversion in our fire defenses, which are today's excellent, efficient Fire Department.

At the wishes of my brother Rene, I include his brief story. He married a neighbor girl, Yvonne Tetreau, in 1937, lived on the same farm as our folks and worked together. A few years later he purchased the farm from Wilbur Barrie (previously owned by

Bourget, then Arthur Poulin) on the Bruce Road, where he still lives. He also owns the ex-Balcaen/Brennan place. Although still quite crippled, Rene and Yvonne managed to make a good living and raised three children: Henry, who now owns our Dad's original homestead, lives in Vegreville and is presently chief engineer at St. Joseph's Hospital. He and wife Betty (Wesley) have five adorable children and seem happy. Daniel, a successful accountant is married to Eileen Mandryk; they have three very fine, courteous little boys. Then Louise, who is slightly handicapped, but a pride and joy to her parents and a great consolation to yours truly, lives in Vegreville

Albert Dubuc lived on the family farm with Mother after Dad's demise, but later moved into town and obtained employment at St. Joseph's Hospital where he still is. He married Phyllis Bienvenue and their union produced two boys, Maurice and Edmond, and one daughter Ruby. Brother Edmond married Suzanne Goutier, had a boy, Roger, and a girl, Dianne. Edmond died suddenly and tragically of heart arrest, on the job operating the local Drive-In Theatre at only 34. Roland (Kit) married Olga Homeniuk, and they have a boy, Denis, and a girl, Donna, and all live in Edmonton. Theresa who died in 1975, also of heart attack, only 45 years of age, was the wife of Ken Riley, at one time of the RCMP, stationed at Vegreville; they had two adopted children.

Following the writer's retirement, I found boredom, longing for old friends, acquaintances, ex-customers, etc. very bothersome. Following the advice of my Edmonton doctor being "Get going at a hobby, or do something, Joe, or you are not long for this world", I started a news-letter which I call "The Golden Ager." I distribute these issues every three months; they are very popular and I hear from, or exchange and get visits from many friends of yesteryears, or their descendants. This proves to be a wonderful tonic for me and I have no doubt that if it were not for this, I, too, would by now have made my exit from this earth.

In my conclusion, I wish to thank my wife Lucille, all of my children, brothers and sisters, other relatives, friends and acquaintances for having "put up" with me. My very sincere solicitations with God are that He may bless you, support you in this rough world, and assist you generously to live so that we may all take part in the grandest of reunions in heaven, someday, where aches and pains and suffering will be no more, but perfect happiness and bliss. With all my crippled heart can muster in ardor and pleading I pray; May God Bless You! Keep You In His Good Graces, Always.

Dubuc, Joseph P.

An Exciting Experience in my Early Life

by Joseph (Joe) P. Dubuc

Dad and mother, a talented violin and guitar duet, financially very hard-pressed, took advantage of the several invitations they got to supply dance music at surrounding barn dances or house parties from which they derived a few badly needed dollars. When I was still a small baby they took me with them travelling by horse and buggy. While they performed they laid me down on the floor, or on a couple of chairs behind them. Some of the tunes I do today on my trumpet or violin I learned then, as a baby of six months or so.

Later, when I was about six, they left me at my grandfather's (old white house still standing on the big hill south of Vegreville on the Bruce Road). I did not like this and had a tendency to cry, but soon shut up when Grandpa produced his strap (a discarded piece of machine belt), only to be again wakened by howling coyotes which were numerous and frightening as sound easily came through the open windows in summer.

This particular morning, about 3:30 a.m., loud noise and commotion developed in the vicinity of the chicken house. Suspecting a marauding coyote seeking a meal amongst our birds, Grandpa, shotgun in hand, meandered cautiously toward the coop. Grandma and I watched through a kitchen window. Suddenly, we hear a loud "KERRPOW". Grandma and I then rushed to the scene expecting to see a dead coyote. But instead we found Grandpa, mad and grumbling holding up two dead chickens riddled with shotgun pellets. How many of the latter hit the coyote we don't know as he didn't stick around long enough to tell us.

By this time Dad and Mom returned from their playing engagement to pick me up, but were surprised to see all of us up so early and wondered what the excitement was all about. My grandparents explained and told the whole thing. In the meantime, practical and resourceful Grandma had been quick to get a hatchet, chop off the heads of the two birds, and already was in the process of cleaning and dressing them. Poor as they were she could not allow this meat to waste.

They then invited Dad, Mom and me to return that same evening and we thoroughly enjoyed a very fine dinner of roasted chicken.

Bazil Theroux and the Ferry

by Joe Dubuc

It was the year about 1925 or 26, Bazil Theroux was the operator of the ferry at Brosseau-Duvernay crossing on the North Saskatchewan River. Bazil was a fun-loving, devil-may-care type of a fellow, always

playing tricks on any one that he could. He was also renowned for making his own "home brew" and was told he made a very good quality moonshine, which he would imbibe and dispensed some to his friends at a very nominal charge. But all this was illegal and Bazil knew it. It came to his ears that it was quite possible that he would be paid a visit by the R.C.M.P. Bazil was ready for them.

When these two strangers appeared, and nonchalantly asked him if he happened to know where they could obtain something to wet their whistles, Mr. Theroux so innocently said, "Yes, but be sure not to tell the police as then I would be in great trouble." The two officers, dressed as civilians, thought this would be an easy bust and giggled under their breath.

They obtained their bottle, for which Bazil Theroux charged them much more than usual, and they departed. When they reached a lonely place they uncorked their crock to taste their "loot" and behold, it was nothing but simply good old North Saskatchewan River water.

Ferry Crossing at Pakan

by Joseph P. Dubuc

The other two instances, Ice Crossing and the Bazil Theroux encounter, were told to me as I was too young to see them myself. But this incident is not hearsay, but happened to me.

As poor homesteaders and farmers south of Vegreville, every one of our neighbors owned cars, but we still travelled with a team and democrat to church, shopping and other excursions as Dad was very practical, economical and thrifty, and would not buy a car until such time as he could get a good one and pay cash for it.

In 1928 he purchased a new model, then the "Bigger and Better 1928 Chevrolets" with "Four Wheel Brakes". At first he was very skeptical to let me use it for myself, because as he claimed, we all worked so hard to make the necessary money, this should be our family car and enjoyed by the whole family. But he relinquished his stance as time went by, and in July, 1930, I was able to get use of it to attend a dance at far-away Smoky Lake, which meant crossing on the ferry north of Andrew over the Saskatchewan River.

We had been bending our elbows occasionally during the evening. Crossing on our way back towards Vegreville, reaching the south shore, being inexperienced on ferry crossing, I started up too soon, not giving the operator sufficient time to tie the chain and secure the ferry to shore. The car wheels, starting suddenly, pushed the ferry back out in the river and the back of our car fell in the edge. Wheels,

in the water, just spun but the car did not move. Lucky I had as my escort one Nellie Bolduc who could drive. Pete Dumont, my cousin, was in the back with his girl. We both got out and, in water to our waists, pushed on the car, and Nellie driving, got it out. But no sooner were we on firm ground than the motor stopped, not to start again. We walked to a farmer's place, got him to come and pull us to his place and on to Vegreville, where we found out that the back of the car was sufficiently submerged so that water from the river ran into the tank. This escapade cost us \$35.00 for towing, plus \$10.00 for removing and cleaning the tank. I think it took all my wages for the next two years to pay for this.

Several years after we found out we had been lucky at that, because a few years before two persons had drowned as the result of a similar accident.

The Ice Bridge Crossing 1915 on the North Saskatchewan River

by Joseph P. Dubuc

In those days whatever acreage was sown to grain was cut, bound, stooked then stacked. Threshing was done later during winter when other farm work was impossible. This was done with a very old machine which was hand fed, had a hand-retrieved straw carrier, and was propelled by horse power. The operation was slow, tedious and inefficient. Two local farmers, Henry Poulin and Jack Smart, decided to purchase a more modern self-feed and blower machine, also a J. I. Case steam tractor for power. This particular fall they completed all threshing around the Vegreville district. Then a group of farmers from Brosseau came to Poulin and Smart, explained that their grain was all in stacks, and asked them to bring their outfit over to do their threshing.

There was no bridge then at the Duvernay-Brosseau crossing over the Saskatchewan River. A ferry operated during summer, but was not available as soon as freeze-up came. The only means over the river was on the ice, but following an inspection by Smart and Poulin, they did not think the ice sufficiently thick and strong to carry their threshing outfit to the north-of-the-river farmers. Shortly after the farmers again approached Poulin and Smart, saying they had a man who agreed to build his own ice bridge, and when deemed sufficiently strong, would take the outfit over to the north side, as he was a qualified licensed steam engineer whose name was George (Bizou) Lambert. The owners of the outfit were a little apprehensive at first, fearing that perhaps Lambert would cross too soon, and that their machine would go through the ice and be lost. but Lambert assured them that he would be piloting this

outfit, and that his life would also be at stake, therefore would take no chances.

During the next two or so weeks, George (Bizou) piled straw, branches, old boards, etc., etc., spraying these every night with water bailed through the ice. Finally he announced the crossing bridge was ready and sent word to Poulin and Smart to bring the machinery to the south shore of the Saskatchewan River on a specified morning. News of this feat reached many ears and so many were anxious to have the outfit across to do their threshing, and a large crowd, coming by sleighs and horses, horseback and walking, gathered at the site. The outfit arrived in good time, and a little later, George (Bizou) Lambert appeared by sleigh with a neighbor.

He was oddly dressed in a huge fur coat, big collar turned up around his head, with only a slight Charlie Chaplin style of a black derby hat. In his coat pockets were two big crocks of whisky and it was very evident he had already sampled them generously. He climbed on top of the steam boiler, removed the governor belt and tied a weight on the safety valve (both a strict "no, no" in steam operations), faced the large audience assembled on the shore, waved a grandiose salute, then opened wide the throttle of the J. I. Case.

Eye witnesses said that old engine huffed and puffed like it had never before; there was many a creak and crack from the ice bridge, but as all spectators held their breath, the steam tractor kept going at record speed, until finally the front wheels touched the north shore of the river. All let out a big sigh of relief, Bizou stopped the tractor, again bowed majestically to the crowd, took big swigs from his two crocks and collected his \$50.00, which had been accepted as his fee for this venture. By this time he was so drunk he climbed into his neighbor's sleigh box with great difficulty, but the touchy mission was accomplished. Bravo!

Joseph P. Dubuc

Mes chers amis, parents et confreres d'origine Franaise:

Il me fait grand plaisir et consolation d'adresser quelques mots en Franais  la chre et douce mmoire de nos anctres, presque tous dcds, spcialement ceux qui sont arrivs au Vieux Vegreville vers 1894. Quoiqu'ils ne peuvent pas nous entendre, nous leur offrons nos sentiments les plus tendres d'affections chaleureuses et d'amours intenses. Surtout les Tetreau, Poulin et Dubuc, premiers colons, de notre langue, qu'ont pris des racines, les premiers dans la rgion du Vieux Vegreville, sous des conditions trs difficiles et dsastreuses, mme que nos jeunes d'aujourd'hui refuse mme de croire.

Quelque temps après, déjà un petit village existe, avec beaucoup de nouveau arrivants. C'est alors que le CNR propose d'établir une voie de chemin de fer à l'Est d'Edmonton, et l'on demande du terrain, gratuit, des propriétaires, pour établir une "cour gare ferré" (RR Yard). Ces messieurs, en grande erreur, refusent et le CNR passe au nord-est, et il s'établit une gare là en dépassant le vieux village.

Sous peu, il devient évident surtout aux hommes d'affaires, l'avantage d'être situés "sur le chemin de fer" et ils commencent, l'un après l'autre, à déménager. Quelques-uns des Pionniers tiennent bon pour quelques années, mais après des résistances considérables aux mouvements, eux aussi sont presque forcés à suivre le courant.

Beaucoup, et surtout ceux de langue Française, se grouper dans l'environ que l'on appelle encore "village des Français" (French town). Ce sont spécialement des édifices comme l'église St. Martin, École St. Martin, Hôpital St. Joseph, Couvent de la Providence, tous sous directions Françaises, qui occasionnent ce nom, qui est encore utilisé. Même encore aujourd'hui, surtout parmi les Ukrainiens, maintenant en grande majorité, beaucoup de gens font référence au curé de la paroisse St. Martin, aux "Pères Français" (French Fathers). Et pourtant ces derniers ont disparus il y a bien des années, et les présents ne parlent pas même le Français, et sont de diverses origines. Il y a encore dans ces environs des Tetreau, Poulin, Dubuc, Beaudette, Benoit, Lessard, Pagée, Bourget, Dumont, Plouffe, Bienvenue, Robert, Paquette, Pelletier, Theroux, Lachappelle, mais leur langue a presque complètement disparue. Les jeunes ne parlent plus, et les parents avec grande difficulté. Beaucoup sont mariés ce qui contribue beaucoup à cette faillite.

Tribute to Joseph P. Dubuc

**by Eddie Keen May 17, 1979...7:00 and 8:00 a.m.
Vegreville News Advertiser.**

Good morning . . . This is Eddie Keen . . . I've been so buried in muck the the past few days, things have been so heavy, I started wondering if there was any love and peace around . . . and it came to me, in the form of a letter from a gentleman named Joe Dubuc from Vegreville . . . Joe opened his letter to me this way . . .

"Dear Eddie, I hope you will remember me. At one time I operated a dance orchestra at Vegreville. You did likewise in St. Paul. You made it to the big time, I did not. I am now an old man with fairly serious heart trouble, retired, trying to justify my existence. I am very lonely and fighting boredom . . ." Well, I am going to let Joe in on a little secret . . . He asks in his opening paragraph if perhaps I

remember him . . . remember him? My God, when I was growing up in St. Paul I was terrified of him . . . yes indeed, I ran a band called the Blue Rhythm Kings and we played the St. Paul district . . . but occasionally, on special occasions, the good people of St. Paul wanted something different, and so they would bring in Joe Dubuc from Vegreville, well, in those days Vegreville seemed like a foreign country, and a musician the calibre of Joe Dubuc coming to St. Paul excited the townspeople and scared the daylight out of me because I feared the competition. Joe Dubuc certainly would take all my work away . . . well, as the years went by, the Blue Rhythm Kings continued and so did Joe Dubuc, we crossed paths in places like Willingdon and Two Hills and Lavoy . . . and then my big chance came.

I played for a graduation in Vegreville . . . the hometown of Joe Dubuc . . . I felt that I was getting somewhere as a musician if I could compete with Joe Dubuc in his own home town. So do I remember you Joe, you were one of my childhood heroes! So what is Joe Dubuc doing now that he has retired from the elevator business and has hung up his horn? . . . Well, as he said, he's trying to keep busy, and four times a year publishes a mimeographed newsletter called the Golden Ager . . . Joe sent me a couple of copies and they are crammed with fond recollections and memories of times in the Vegreville area . . . for example, where else could you learn these gems . . . and I quote . . ." Had a visit from Gordon Fraser, we joined in an arduous jam session . . . and then we reminisced, talked about Lil and Olga Chilibecki, Simma Milner, now MP Simma Holt, recalled that Joe Stewart walked to Vegreville from Winnipeg and his greatest hazard was encountering cattle not accustomed to humans, they used to corner and attack strangers . . . attention Alice Albrecht, could you let me have the address of the Adamsons, your sister, also your brother . . ." and so goes Joe Dubuc's news letter . . . it's roughly typed, as I said mimeographed, but what wealth of information about people from the district, and what they did, what has happened to them . . . now Joe would like to hear from others who lived and grew up in the area, so drop him a line at Box 68, Vegreville.

Joe made reference to me making the big time, and he not . . . well, not so Joe, the big time is what we make of our personal lives, the kind of people we are, not WHAT we have become but WHO we have become . . . and you've made it to the big time Joe Dubuc . . . wish you lots of love and peace in your retirement, please keep sending copies of your newsletter, but I must remind you again, you darn near ended my musical career years ago . . . my wailing saxophone was a pale imitation of your trumpet play-

ing . . . but maybe my quitting would have been a favor to all those who endured me for so many years . . . good morning.

Regards, Eddie Keen.

Dubuc, Ovila

Ovila Dubuc was born in 1898 in Massachusetts, son of Henry Dubuc (his mother died at his birth); his father remarried and his stepmother (nee Adeline Harris) raised Ovila and his brothers, Henry Dubuc (jr.), Herman (Hormidas, died 1972), Philias; his sister, Zeleda (who married R. Nadeau). A son, Wilfred, and daughter, Mary Rose, were born of this second union. In 1973, only Ovila and Wilfred are alive and living in Vegreville.

Ovila's father came to this area in 1901 on the advice of his sister, Mrs. Joseph Poulin, who with her husband had pioneered at Old Vegreville in 1894. Their first homestead was purchased for \$10 (the old Dubuc Place NW 30-51-14); several years later they bought adjacent land from Jos. Baxandall at \$15 per acre. The children went to school at Old Vegreville, school in the summer when they were not too busy; church was also attended there — located just north of present school.

Ovila worked on the farm for brother Henry until 1917; then took a job at Alberta Hotel (present building) as night clerk. The hotel was new then and had no furnace so Ovila had to carry coal at night to keep the heaters going in the hallways — the only means to heat the rooms which were used by many travellers in those days.



Ovila Dubuc, 22, lone survivor of the Dubuc-Poulin group to arrive at Old Vegreville, 1920.

In 1921 Ovila returned to Mass. and worked there for three yr. in a furniture factory; he came back in 1925 for a visit and at that time met Augustine Pelletier who persuaded him to stay in the west; they were married in 1926. Ovila began a house-painting business which he continued for many years; raised a family of four: Lucille died in 1978 (now Mrs. Walter Dowhaniuk), Ernestine (now Mrs. Robert Bourget of Calgary, Rita (now Mrs. Don McGillivray) and Bernard of Edmonton. Ovila's wife died in 1969; he formerly lived alone in a neat bungalow in "Frenchtown" — 5409-45 St.; his daughter Lucille's family lives in Vegreville. Ovila recalls that the early years in this area were very hard on everyone but especially on the women and children. The first two winters the children lacked warm enough clothes for this climate and they had to stay indoors most of the time.

His family came here with \$3000. (a large sum for those days) but it went fast buying equipment and especially horses which were necessary but scarce and expensive and moreover subject to swamp fever which killed many.

Ovila remembers Father Bernier as the first resident priest of the Old Vegreville parish.

In 1977, Ovila moved to the Nursing Home in Vegreville, where he lives still.

Dubuc, Wilfred

written Jan., 1973, by Betty Hantiuk

Wilfred was born in 1900 in Holyoke, Mass.; came to Vegreville area in 1901 with his father, Henry, stepmother and half-brothers: Henry, Ovila, Hormidas, Philias and sister Zeleda; his full sister, Mary Rose (Gegaire).

On arrival in this area the Dubucs lived with their relatives, the Joseph Poulins, who were already established in the little settlement by the creek. Then the Dubucs moved into a small log and sod cabin on their homestead (NW 30-51-14) and later settled into a large pioneer home made of logs, mudded inside and out and with home-sawn planks for the roof.

Wilfred lives with his wife, Ella (nee Poulin) in a comfortable little home in "Frenchtown" — 5421-45 St. They have helped to raise the children of Ella's deceased brother Ed. Wilfred has a very clear memory and among his recollections are: his first airplane seen at Vegreville Fair, just before W.W.I. when the Fair was held at a site near Art Schmidt's present property; the animals on exhibit got frightened by the plane and tore loose, bulls started fighting and a madhouse ensued until a billy-goat was brought out and that made the animals forget their terror in the novelty of investigating the strange animal in their midst. Old Mr. Whittaker and his son George (for

whom his nephew Geo. Hughes was subsequently named) were driving their horse and buggy through the grounds when the airplane buzzed overhead and the horse was so terrified that it sank to its knees as though in prayer and refused to budge.

About 1914 a circus came to town and set up (near Mrs. Kuzyk's acreage now, around the corner of 48 St. and 54 Ave.); a large crowd was in attendance as circuses were a great attraction in those days — suddenly a lion got loose and bolted through the crowd, ran out through the performers' dressing-room corridor and disappeared in the rough willows and brush beside the CNR tracks. There the lion met a cow owned by a section-man, Garrity, who lived in the section-house (now demolished but once occupied by Onufreychuks); the lion killed the cow and terrified rumors swept the town; people were afraid to venture out long after the lioness had meekly returned to her cage and her cub.

Wilfred died in 1975; Ella now lives in Edmonton. Her nephew, Gene, grandson of Eugene Poulin Sr., still visits Vegreville frequently.

Duk, Andruch and Eva by Alex Duk

In the winter of 1900, Andruch Duk and wife Eva (nee Marcisczuk), with their three children — son Clementius, and daughters Maria and Motra, arrived in Canada. The family originally came from the village of Schurowychi, in the region of Brody, Western Ukraine (then called Austria).

Andruch Duk was born in 1860 and passed away in 1932 at the age of 72 years. Wife Eva was born in 1867 and passed away in 1946 at the age of 79 years.

Andruch applied for and settled on a homestead in 1901. On February 5, 1902, the homestead was paid by submitting \$10.00 as full payment. This land is located in New Kiew district — N.W. 10, 53-13-W4.

The first log house burnt down after a few years, so another home had to be constructed. Later in 1917, a third larger home was built to accommodate the growing family.

At the time of arrival to Canada, son Clementius was eleven and one-half years old; daughter Maria, nine; Motra, a few months old, and she died about two years later.

Maria was later married to Michael Samoil. Daughter Hanka, who was born in Canada, married Dan Zaozirny.

Son Clementius, at the age of twenty, married Annie Babycz on August 3, 1909. His wife Annie died on January 12, 1922, leaving seven children: Bill who was eleven years old, Sonia, Nick, Julia (Porayko), Peter, Paul and Annie (Tymchuk).



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Duk (Pete was brother to Andruch Duk), about 1900.



Andruch and Eva Duk, first pioneers, late 1920's (parents of Klem Duk).



Klem and Stephania Duk in farm home at New Kiew, 1953.

Clementius re-married on July 16, 1922, to Stephania Strychaluk who became a mother to the seven children. Clementius and Stephania had four sons and two daughters: the eldest Mike, then Mary, Alex, Julian, Elizabeth and Edward. Mary is married to Steve Kachmar and resides in Edmonton. Elizabeth with her husband Adam Rurka lives in Camrose.

Clementius and Stephania retired from farming in 1953 and later moved into Vegreville where they purchased a home. He kept his father's homestead till he passed away in 1975. His wife Stephania then had the homestead on her name and in 1979 passed it on to son Alex.

No. 9378

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 9378



Agency,

190

I Certify that I have received from Andrews Duk
of Star, Alberta.
the sum of 10 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for N. W
Quarter of Section 10 Township 53 Range 13
West of Meridian, and that the said Andrews Duk
is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such
cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

NOTE.—All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

The holder of this receipt is required to give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Ottawa, before making application for patent.

A. G. Harrison

Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Andruch Duk's homestead receipt, Feb. 5, 1902.

Duke, Fred

I was born November 28, 1899 in a little country Post Office called Hartfell, 40 miles south of North Bay, Ontario. At the outbreak of the First World War, being the oldest of the family, I was taken out of school to work. The men of eligible age were going to war. My father believed he could do best for his country by going west to grow wheat, so our family travelled to Strongfield, Saskatchewan by CPR in the spring of 1917.

There began an uphill struggle. On a rented section of land the first thing we had to do was build a house for our family of nine. Little crop was harvested that year to see us through the cold prairie winter. The younger members of the family had to drive by buggy or cutter to the country school three miles away. For nine years, until 1926, we struggled along with fair crops but with a very unfair rental contract. About that time my father decided to buy the section but that did not turn out well as the markets started to fall badly and the crops were not good.

In 1928, Margaret Fraser (from Strasbourg, Saskatchewan) and I were married. We rented land to start our farming career. That was the beginning of the "dirty thirties" . . . the crops dried up in the fields. What did grow was eaten by grasshoppers. The land itself blew away in the prairie wind. Wells dried up so water had to be hauled sometimes as far as twelve miles. Things were pretty desperate. In the fall of 1932, the government gave us some flour in jute bags, coal and \$4.00 a month to buy groceries to see us through the winter. There was no food to raise any beef or pork. We did manage some of the time to



Fred H. Duke catching up on the news after being away fishing for a few days. Sitting on the bumper of a 1928 McLaughlin-Buick car.



Fred H. Duke on a 10-20 Titan tractor bought in 1923, using a disc plow trying to get away from having to sharpen shares.

have a cow for milk and butter. That was a blessing because by then three little girls had been born; Elizabeth and twins, Agnes and Myrtle.

By 1933 my dad and the rest of my family decided that they had to move away from Saskatchewan so they moved to a rented farm near Bittern Lake, Alberta. Margaret and I tried it for another year but lost all the crop to grasshoppers. In the spring of 1934 we arrived in Vegreville to try to buy a farm eight miles south of Fred Richardson of town. My brother, Jack, and his wife, Mary, came from Bittern Lake and we worked together for the first few years. Conditions were still hard. The farm had been badly worked so crops were poor. The market was low for what crop we did get. We knew what it was to get little more for the grain than what it cost to thresh it . . . 10, 12, maybe 15 cents a bushel.

In 1939 came the Second World War and with it better markets. After that both crops and prices were better. In 1942 we had a good crop but did not get it threshed until the next spring because farm help was almost impossible to get in wartime. About 1945 we were able to make a new agreement and pay off the balance owing on the farm. By the winter of 1948 we bought a brand new tractor.

The combination of prairie winters and the fact that the nearest school (Imperial) was three and one-half miles away . . . and only went up to grade eight . . . posed a problem in educating four girls. (Another daughter, Margaret, had been born December, 1939.) In the fall of 1949 we bought a house in Vegreville so the girls could go to school there. That first winter Margaret stayed in town with the girls while I stayed on the farm and looked after the stock. That was a lonely and unsatisfactory arrangement for me. The next summer we sold the stock and I came to town in the winters also, going back to the farm for spring planting.

Farm labour was increasingly difficult to get so in the fall of 1951 we bought a combine and swather to do the harvesting ourselves. We continued to work that way until the fall of 1960 when we sold the farm. After that I worked in Vegreville at John Deere for

two years, then for two more years in the Co-op Hardware store.

Over the years there has been lots of hard work, but we have had our good times too. Both Margaret and I have always been quite active in church and community groups. We still manage to keep quite busy with these activities and enjoy our family and friends.

Duke, John and Mary

by Mrs. Fred Duke

John Duke and his wife Mary, with their small son Robert, arrived in Vegreville in the spring of 1934. They lived on the Fred Richardson farm south of Vegreville with the Fred Duke family for three years. They had previously farmed at Bittern Lake for a short period of time, John having driven there by covered wagon from Loreburn, Saskatchewan. In 1938 they rented a section of land from John Blackburn, south of Lavoy where they farmed until 1945. Then John bought a share of the Vegreville Flour Mill. In 1948 they, with their family of three, moved to Rimbey where they successfully farmed until 1966, when John became custodian of the Rimbey School until his retirement in 1975. While in Vegreville, John was a member of the Masonic Lodge and a member of the United Church Session. Mary was an active member of the Women's Missionary Society, of Women's Institute and the Eastern Star.

Their daughter, Dorothy, a nursing aide, is married and lives with her husband, Bill Murray and their four sons, at Red Deer.

Robert is principal of the Lacombe Junior High School. He married Rosamond Rogers, formerly of Vegreville. They have two sons and two daughters.

Donald married Lillian Jones of Rimbey. He is a school custodian and they have a son and daughter and live in Rimbey.

Dumont, Charlie and Nellie

by Nellie (Richards) Dumont

Nellie, oldest daughter of Si and Bessie Richards, graduated from the old Vegreville High School in 1937 and became a postal worker at Vegreville when Nellie Hinde was post-mistress. When Mrs. Hinde died, her husband, Benny, became post-master. Other postal employees at that time were: Winnie Jones, Mae Brandle, Peggy Hayter (Tetreau), Opal Emery (McCarty), Stella Green, Irene Bolan; Bill Turner, night-man, and Mr. Emery, rural route man.

In 1942, Nellie Richards married Charlie Dumont, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dumont; they moved east to St. Thomas, Ontario, where Charlie was serving in the Airforce. Eventually they

returned to Vegreville, purchasing a home in the newly-developed Veterans' block on Hospital (54a) Avenue, where they have lived since. Charlie was employed by B.A. Oil and later by Gulf Servico for thirty-five years until his retirement in 1979. He was always interested in sports and played, coached, and cheered for local ball teams in earlier days. Nellie has been a book-keeper for the last twenty-five years — nineteen years at Imperial Lumber and the rest at Revelstoke Co. Ltd.

Charlie and Nellie have three daughters, all raised and educated here. Patricia became an x-ray technician; married Dave Goshko of Vegreville and now they reside in Edmonton with three children: Gordon, and twins Michelle and Gregory. Theresa Dumont worked here for AGT; married Sjef Muiselaar of Edmonton; now they live in Lethbridge with children Inika and Shane. Beverly Dumont, born in 1954, graduated from VCHS and NAIT; works in Bank of Montreal here and is married to Michael Semeniuk, a C.O. man DIAL and AGT. Bev and Mike live in Vegreville and have two daughters, Lisa Marie and Trisha.

Dunham, Melvin and Carrie

by Milton and Florence Burton

Melvin Dunham, born in 1880 at Napanee, Ontario, came out west in 1897 to work on his cousin Bailey Chamberlin's farm in South Edmonton. After a few years he bought a farm just south of McKernan Lake and farmed it and in between seasons he worked on the railway building grades. In 1905 he sold the farm and went back to Ontario, married Carrie Butler and they came back to Vegreville. He homesteaded near Old Vegreville alongside of the Vermilion River. Next year his father, mother and sister moved out and homesteaded land next to his. His sister Lilly married Oscar Johnston of Vegreville. For a few years Mr. Dunham hauled grain to Edmonton in the winter and returned with a load of coal which he sold in Vegreville. He travelled this road through the winter and in weather of 40 degrees below zero, and also through blizzards, a three-day trip one way, if the weather was good. In 1915 he bought a farm near Ridgepark on which he built a fine home and barn which, in 1923, won second prize for the best kept farm-yard.

Mrs. Carrie Dunham owned a 1917 model T Ford of which she was the sole operator including changing and patching tires. She did most of the errands for the farm and the neighbors, plus taking in all the women's clubs in Vegreville, and still had time to raise a family of one son and three daughters, and beautiful flowers. In 1929, Mel sold the farm at Vegreville and bought a farm at Onoway; they lived



Homestead by Vegreville, early 1900. Mr. Dunham in doorway.



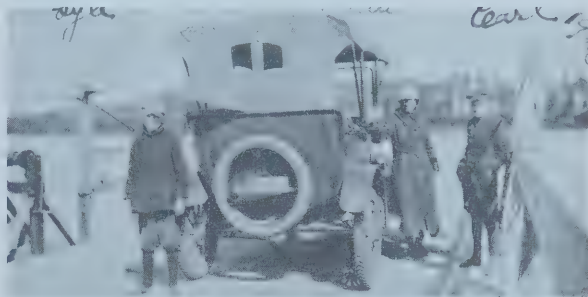
Homestead house, by Vegreville, early 1900's.



Left to right: Dunham children, Hazel, Florence and Elsie, and Dad Mel, 1920.



Oscar Johnson and his Rumely, 1928.



Carrie Dunham's old model Ford on ferry at Duvernay, going for blueberries, 1921.



Lottie (Gould) and Chis. Clements, about 1905. (See p. 382.)



Mrs. Bill Rogers and Clarence, Vegreville Fair, 1915.



By Oscar Johnson's house, 1911. (l.) — Mel Dunham, his wife and child Lyle. (r.) — Oscar Johnson, his wife Lilly and their two boys Charlie and Earl. The Johnsons later had a daughter named Gladys who married Bob Kittle.

there for 11 years before moving to Edmonton where they retired. Mel passed away in 1949. Mrs. Carrie Dunham passed away in 1975.

Elsie married Mr. Jackman and is still living in Edmonton. Florence married Milton Burton and is retired at Alberta Beach.

Hazel married Russ Armitsted; he passed away in 1979; Hazel is living in Edmonton.

Durie, Alexander and Alice

Alex Durie arrived in Winnipeg from his native Scotland in May, 1908.

He was employed on a farm at Wellwood, Manitoba where he worked for David Wright for two years.

He then moved to Saskatchewan and bought a homestead where he broke thirty-five acres of land the first year with a horse and oxen. The next year he seeded the thirty-five acres by hand. After it was harvested, he hauled the grain twenty-six miles north to Brock, Saskatchewan which was the nearest community.



Wedding picture of Alice and Alex Durie . . . 1916.

Alex also worked hard at his trade of carpentry, building mostly churches and livery stables — a place to go on Sunday and a place to tie your horses.

He rented another section of land in 1913 and also bought a half-section four miles to the south. The following year the railroad went through the north-west corner of his half-section and the town of Plato was built there.

He bought his first car and his first threshing machine — a Sawyer Massey tractor and a Sawyer Massey thresher in the summer of 1916.

In November, 1916 his bride-to-be, Alice Addison from Stonehaven, Scotland, arrived in New York, U.S.A. after a continuing courtship by mail for eight years. Alex met the ship on November 26, and they were married the following day. They then returned to Plato, Saskatchewan.

They farmed in Saskatchewan until the fall of 1920 at which time they bought the farm at Lavoy, Alberta. They moved into this district on April 10, 1921.

Alex Durie lived on the farm until the time of his passing on February 18, 1963. Mrs. Durie, now at the age of 84, resides in the Good Samaritan Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta.

They had eight children, seven of which are still living.

Ann, born September 16, 1917 and married Carl Yakimovitch on December 9, 1942. Their children are Donald, Lorraine, and Myrna.

Alice, born March 15, 1919 and passed away February 8, 1920.



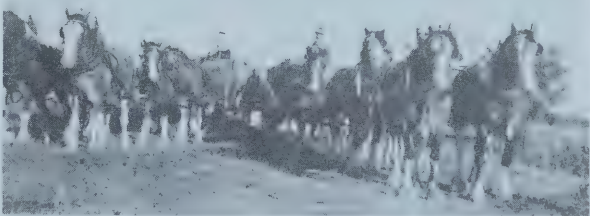
The Alex Durie Family, 1960. Back row (l. to r.) — Jim and Elizabeth Durie, Alex and Augusta Horon, Harry and Gertrude Horon, Dave and Ruby Rattray, Carl and Anne Yakimovitch. Front row (l. to r.) — Bud Durie, Alice and Alex Durie, Dave Durie.



Breaking land on the Durie farm at Lavoy in 1947 — using two IHC-15-30's.



Bud Durie plowing at the age of 9 years, 1930.



Two 6-horse teams shown at the Vegreville Exhibition by the Wyllie Bros. and Alex Durie in 1938.

James was born on April 29, 1932 and married Elizabeth Lowe on June 26, 1959. They have two children — Christine and Grant.

David was born June 12, 1938 and married Patricia Hubbard on July 6, 1963. They have four boys — David, Dwight, Dwayne and Douglas.

Durie, Alexander Robert (Bud)

Bud was born at Plato, Saskatchewan, on November 20, 1920. His parents, Alex and Alice Durie, farmed there and were doing very well until the dry years came. There was wind and dust, and after losing several crops in a row they decided to move to Alberta.

Bud arrived at Lavoy with his parents on April 10th, 1921. His parents had bought a farm north-east of Lavoy. Bud received his education in the Nuttborough School #870. Due to necessity, he started helping in the field. At the age of nine he was driving horses on the plough, and at thirteen he was pitching bundles on a threshing outfit.

Bud has been active in community affairs, being secretary of the Nuttborough School, a member on



Alex Durie with his daughter Anne and a neighbor boy. In the background is Mr. Durie's first car, a 490 Chevrolet, purchased new in 1917. It was called the 490 Chev. because it was supposed to cost \$490.00. However, it cost \$750.00.

the Lavoy Rural Electrification Association, a Director on the Vegreville Exhibition Association, a member of the Vegreville St. John's Masonic Lodge and Lavoy Hall Committee.

Bud still lives on the original Durie farm at Lavoy and although he has no children, he has numerous nieces and nephews who keep him busy.

Durie, David and Patricia

David George Durie, the youngest member of the Durie family, was born in 1938 in Vegreville. When he and his mother arrived home from the hospital, the family had moved into their new home on the same farm (it still stands today).

Dave was educated in Nuttborough, Lavoy, White Rock, B.C. and Vegreville. He started farming in 1957 on the family farm. Then in 1962 he bought his first land from Cyd Woods and Mrs. Solly.

In 1963 he married Patricia Hubbard and they took up residence on the home farm where they reside today.

In 1963 they started a herd of Registered Short-horns, taking top awards showing the cattle at Toronto, Vancouver, Regina, Calgary and Edmonton. In 1971 the highlight of the showing was when they received Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor awards at the Toronto Royal.

In 1975 they started a herd of Registered Polled Herefords and dispersed the Shorthorn herd in 1977, with the sale being held right on the farm.

They showed their first Hereford bull at the Edmonton Bull Sale in 1978, with the bull being awarded Reserve Champion.

Pat and Dave Durie have four sons — David Alexander born April 18, 1965, Dwight Addison born April 17, 1968, Dwayne Ashley born March 1, 1970, Douglas Patrick born November 8, 1977.

The boys are attending school in Lavoy, Alberta, and are active in hockey, 4-H Beef, and Cubs in Vegreville.

Durie, Jim and Elizabeth

Jim Durie was raised in the Nuttborough area, just north-east of Lavoy. He started farming there in partnership with his brother, Bud. Some years were good and then there were other years — like the year they had a hundred dollars left over after they had sold their grain and paid up their debts. Jim is a member of Unifarm and is the local U.F.A. Delegate. He is also a member of the Vegreville Elks Lodge #143 and has been active in the Vegreville Elks Patrol Team since its organization in 1972. He enjoys music and plays several musical instruments.

Elizabeth (Lowe) Durie was born and raised in the Park Grove area, attending school at Vegreville, Lavoy, and High School at Vegreville again. During this time she was a Junior F.U.A. Director for District 6. She graduated from high school in 1955 and decided to go to university and take Household Economics. They had classes from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 noon, six days a week; then had labs from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for three afternoons and from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. another afternoon. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1958 with a B.Sc. in Household Economics and then worked with Canadian Utilities in the Home Service Department for a year. They traveled all over Alberta and she had relatives at nearly every program! At present, she is employed with Alberta Agriculture as a District Home Economist. She really enjoys her job; it is interesting and challenging. She is also a member of the Vegreville Order of the Royal Purple.

During their younger days both Jim and Elizabeth were members of the Jr. Farmers Union of Alberta. Jim belonged to the Lavoy group and Elizabeth belonged to the Park Grove group. These groups were in operation around 1953 to 1958, and they held meetings; went to conventions; and had fund-raising projects, curling and skating parties, dances and hay rides.

Jim and Elizabeth were married on June 26, 1959, and then started farming on their own. They rented a half-section from Harry Bushko, just north of Sick Man Lake at Lavoy. It wasn't very far from the Durie home place as the crow flies, but if the crow had to drive a truck or take machinery there, it would be about five miles.

While they lived at Lavoy, Elizabeth started work with the Provincial Government as a District Home Economist at Two Hills in August of 1959, serving the Counties of Two Hills and Lamont. Christine Anne was born on May 28, 1960, and Elizabeth took six months off and then worked part-time.

They moved to Vegreville on October 31, 1962, and rented her folks' farm in the Park Grove District. Her folks, Jack and Betty Lowe, bought a house in town and moved to Vegreville.

Since there hadn't been livestock on the farm for several years, the first few years were very busy ones, with building barns and fences. They also remodelled the house. As well as living in a remodeling mess and feeding numerous people, Elizabeth was working full-time. When she looks back at those hectic days, she often wonders how they lived through them! Actually, you should do things like that when you are young, because you run out of energy as you get older! She started to work in the Vegreville Alberta Agriculture office as a District

Home Economist in January of 1963. James Grant was born on February 8, 1965, and again Elizabeth took six months off work.

In 1968, they bought a half-section of land from John and Irene Ziegler who kept out 20 acres with the buildings which they later sold to Ed and Betty Brimacombe. In 1970, because they needed? wanted? liked? had? cattle, they bought a quarter-section of pasture land from Wilfred Steinbach, fenced it, and proceeded to pasture cattle in it. They moved the cattle from home to the pasture (five miles) in the spring and back home again in the fall. This the kids and horses really enjoyed, so they always had to do it on the weekend so their "crew" wasn't in school! In 1972, they bought her folks' farm, on which they are still living (S½-34-52-15-4).

Chris has been in Vegreville 4-H Beef Club for six years, the 4-H Clothing Club 4 years, and the 4-H Light Horse Club 3 years. Actually, she belonged to all three clubs at the same time for a few years, so she was anything but bored! She really enjoys horses and has done a lot of riding. In her last year of school she worked part-time in the Vegreville Drug Store. In 1978-1979, Chris took Architectural Technology at NAIT and in 1979-1980 she is taking Interior Design.

Grant is also a 4-H member and even though he is allergic to animals, he still joins the Vegreville 4-H Beef Club as he likes the 4-H Curling, Public Speaking, Tractor Rallies and all the other interesting things the club does. In 1977, he had the Grand Champion Calf and in 1978, Chris and Grant had the Best Pair of Calves in the Club. He also plays hockey, rides motor bikes, is interested in anything that is mechanical, and enjoys dancing. In 1978 and 1979, he won the Tractor Rodeo at the Spruce Grove Fair. He is also actively involved in the Vegreville 4-H Tractor Club.

Jim and Elizabeth add, "We have all enjoyed the Park Grove Community with its friendliness, card parties, dances and picnics. Although school was no longer held in the Park Grove School, we continued to have Christmas concerts. The Women of Unifarm group organized these concerts and all the children (and sometimes the adults) took part and, of course, Santa Claus always managed to get there! The kids really enjoyed and looked forward to these concerts.

"We have also enjoyed farming. It has its ups and downs and really keeps us all hopping."

Dutka, Mike

Mike Dutka, a cousin to Nick, came to the United States in 1904 and about ten years later he migrated to Vegreville. First, he worked at egg-grading where he made a few dollars, then invested \$500 with two other entrepreneurs (one was Peter Svarich) and start-

ed a theatre in the Dobbins' Block (now the Legion Hall). Later, Mike leased the Alberta Hotel from Calgary Breweries; he renovated it and did well there for a few years. He built a beautiful home, still standing, on Highway 16 and 52 St. None of the family live in Vegreville now.

Dutka, Nick

Nick Dutka was eleven years old in 1903 when his family came to Canada from an area of Poland dominated by the Austrian empire of Franz Joseph. They got to Edmonton after a slow trip by ship and rail, then a generous teamster gave them a ride out to the Mundare area. In 1905, the family moved to the Plain Lake district where they farmed for some time. Nick never went to school in Canada, because there was no school close by then. Short but strongly built, Nick at sixteen began to work for the CPR in Saskatchewan where he held his own with the big men of the steel gang. Soon he came back to Vegreville where he worked for the CNR for several years, at the same time proving up the homestead he had taken at Plain Lake. In 1918 he married Anna Lesiuk and they raised seven children: Willie (now deceased), Eva, Mary, Helen, Raymond, Mike and Laurie. Some children died young of scarlet fever; Dutkas had called Dr. Arthur from Lavoy but he got there too late to help. So the family moved closer to schools and hospital in 1928, buying in Vegreville the bungalow (corner of Hospital avenue and 46 St.), one of the oldest houses in town, built by Joe St. Peter, owner of the brickyard.

Nick then farmed the land just north of St. Martin's school, the site of the major housing subdivision at present. He also worked at the Alberta Hotel for some years until his retirement, when he spent his time gardening and caring for his ailing wife. The children were educated at St. Martin's school and gradually moved away. Mr. Dutka died in 1977; Mrs. Dutka, now at the Auxiliary Hospital, is physically handicapped but remains cheerful and alert; (died at Westlock, 1979).

Eaton, Murney

by Barbara Eaton

Murney Eaton came to this area from Ontario in 1903, homesteading nine miles north of Lavoy for twenty-nine years, then moving two and a half miles south of Lavoy. He married Katie Juba and they raised five children: Sam, who married Nellie Flack, died in 1947; Vic, who married Barbara Walker in 1933, lives in Innisfail; Ann, who married Vic Shultz, lives in Vancouver; Ernie, married to Dolly McPherson, Vancouver; Murney, married Daisy McPherson, Vancouver. Ethel Eaton married Arnold



Mr. and Mrs. John Walker, 1927.

Ward and they live in Edmonton. Mrs. Eaton died in 1930, aged forty-five; Mr. Eaton died in 1948, aged seventy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Walker left Philpstoun, Scotland, in 1926 and came to Lavoy with their five children, one of whom was Barbara (author of this history). When my parents left Scotland, the minister told my mother to never give up — that the Lord would provide. They needed that faith for times were very hard in Canada. First the crop got hailed out, then frozen in the field. There was an Irishman named Pat Malloy who looked after sheep for O. C. Blackburn and he used to come to our place often to visit and eat. One day just before Xmas he came dancing into our house; grabbed Mother who thought he had gone mad; then he opened his purse and gave

my mother \$50, which in those days was a fortune! Mother told Pat what the minister had said, and we always called our friend “Lord Pat” after that.

We attended Pleasant Ridge School; in 1926 the teacher was Mollie Brown of Edmonton, then Eva Dorward of Innisfree, Joyce O'Dell of Lavoy, LenaBell Jeffrey of Vegreville, and John Mitchell whose parents had the lumber-yard in Lavoy. Jim Fahy was the school secretary as long as I can remember. Families attending school then were: Lenochs, Walkers, McKinneys, Page, Quasts, Dalys, Iversons, and Jacobsen. The highlight of the year was the concert; everyone had a part; Santa came with the bags of goodies that were really appreciated in hard times. Dances were held in the school every second Friday with only a fiddle and guitar and Jim Faye for M.C.; he made sure that everyone danced and how we enjoyed it, young and old.

In Lavoy, I remember Hughes' Store (built by H. B. Hughes in 1906 across the street from the hotel); it was run by Spence and Daisy Hughes (later by Oscar Tunis; now by Alex Dowhey). Spence and Daisy Hughes had a great orchestra, with Wally Kittle on sax; Clarence Zulegar, trumpet; Fred Reesor, drums; Harry Regan, violin; Spence on violin and Daisy on piano. Whenever a local couple got married, the community put on a dance for them in the hall with free music and gifts such as a Breakfast Suite. After Spence and Daisy moved away, Joe Dubuc and his group played at most of the hall dances. We lived twelve miles from town and in winter we drove to the parties with team and sleigh, singing all the way in and sleeping all the way home. My dad always had the coffee on the stove when we got home about six in the morning, and there was Scottish porridge ready too.



(L. to r.) Jack Walker, Barbara Walker, Vic Eaton, Lola Lenach, 1933.



Barbara and Lillian Walker, 1927.

Eberhardt, Hans and Frieda by Frieda Eberhardt

Hans Eberhardt was born and raised in a small village in Mehrestetten about fifty miles from Stuttgart, West Germany. He came from a family of twelve children. He was too young to join World War I, 1914-18, but had to take over the farm work while his father and older brother went to war. After his father and brother came back from World War I, they and his younger brothers took over the farm work and he went out working on sheep ranches. He was a shepherd until 1924 when he decided to emigrate to Canada. He chose Vegreville, Alberta, because he had friends there and wanted to join them. Hans was then a young man of 23 years. He worked in the Vegreville district a few years and also at Stony Plain



Hans Eberhardt proud to show his pure-bred Shorthorn bull just bought at Edmonton spring show. He paid \$400.00 in 1957. His son Billy, 8, wanted to be in picture too, with a calf.



Eberhardt family, 1967. Top (l. to r.) — Laura Hughes — Edmonton; Wallace Eberhardt, farmer — Vegreville; Herman Eberhardt, farmer and plumber — Vegreville; William Eberhardt, electrician — Whitecourt; Harry Eberhardt, electrician — Edmonton; Kenneth Eberhardt, farmer — Vegreville; Amelia Hihn, Air Canada Office — Edmonton. Bottom (l. to r.) — Gertrude Edler, R.N., Corona, California; Hans Eberhardt — father; Frieda Eberhardt, mother; Lydia Kugler — San Mateo, California.



Mr. George Bourget just loaded up cattle to haul to city from Hans Eberhardt farm, 1948.



On Hans Eberhardt farm with 4 of his sons running the threshing machine and hauling bundles, 1962.



Laura, Harry and Herman Eberhardt just came off the school bus. School bus driver is Mr. Raymond Robert, about 1956.



Mr. Maurice Thomson and Hans Eberhardt are butchering a hog, at Hans' place, 1951.

as milkman delivering milk. Later he bought his present farm and lived there all his life.

A few years after Hans' arrival, his brother, sister and father came to Canada too. His brother, Herman, settled in Edmonton, his sister Freda went to California to be with her brother, Carl, who emigrated to U.S.A. before the World War of 1914-18. His father left for Mayerthorpe and started a sheep ranch.

Frieda was born in Edmonton, 1913, at home, in a little shack near the International Hotel. She has an older sister, Hilda, who was born in Saskatchewan. Her father dug ditches by shovel for sewer lines for his living. While in Edmonton he heard of homesteads southwest of Greencourt district. In 1914 Frieda's parents, with the family, came by box car on the Grand Trunk Railway to Junkins, now Wildwood town. A negro delivery man took them to the homestead by team of oxen and wagon. Mrs. Wieland and their two daughters, Hilda and Frieda, stayed with neighbors, while Mr. Wieland quickly built a log shack with a sod roof as a home for his family. The log house didn't last very long. It soon collapsed after a heavy hailstorm. The sod roof broke through and the children were quickly pushed underneath the homemade table. In 1919 a son was born, a brother to Hilda and Frieda.

In 1919 Mr. Wieland built a bigger and stronger log house, two rooms and an upstairs. It had a shingle roof. When Frieda was age seven and her sister age



4-H Beef Show and Sale. Left to right: Wallace Eberhardt, Reserve Champion; Kenneth, Grand Champion. 1965.

nine, there was a school built one and a half miles away. No roads then, only cowpath trails to school. The school was open from spring to fall until roads were built. After school the children had to bring in the cows to be milked. There were no fences then and the cattle were turned loose and brought in in the evening. By the sound of cowbells they knew where they were and whose they were, as every farmer's bell had a different sound.

A Health Nurse would come to the homestead schools about twice a year to check the children's health, tonsils, etc. Then a travelling clinic consisting of a doctor and a few nurses would come to Mayerthorpe Hall on certain days to remove tonsils. Frieda was one of the unfortunate ones and was taken there with a team of horses in a wagon box. We had to bring a couch along for her to lie on while the operation was done. After a few hours we were sent home. On the way home a thunderstorm came up and Frieda and her father got soaked. She caught a cold and had a very sore throat and had to miss a few weeks of school.

While on a visit to his father in 1930 Hans met and married Frieda Wieland of Mayerthorpe district, who was a farmer's daughter.

Hans and Frieda Eberhardt were blessed with ten children; nine are still living.

In the 1930's prices dropped and it was hard to make ends meet. It was hard to just keep the interest paid on land debts. Hans cut and split firewood and took it to Vegreville to Miss Ada Wright (teacher) and to several other homes until the natural gas came in. He took the wood in with horses and was paid \$5.00 a wagon box full. In the 40's the cattle prices were low too; steers, 11½¢; heifers, 11¢, cows, 9¢, etc.

During World War II the food rationing didn't affect the Eberhardt family that much as they all drank milk so they didn't use much coffee, tea or sugar, and on the farm they always had chickens and beef for meat. Gas was rationed but we had only one truck as the sons were too young to own a car then.

In December, 1957, Hans and Frieda went to Germany by ship. They spent Christmas with Hans' relatives, also went to see the homeplace of Frieda's parents in Germany. They were gone about two months. The boat trip was very interesting for Frieda. Hans was on a boat before, when he emigrated to Canada. The trip took ten days one way.

Later they went to California by bus to see the children there, then went on to Texas to see Hans' brother, Carl. They came up through Oklahoma to Winnipeg, then home to Vegreville. In 1966 Hans and Frieda flew over to Germany to see his family once more. While we were on holidays, the bigger children took over the chores and sent the younger ones to school.

In the late 60's Hans' health was failing and his sons did most of the farming and heavy work. In March, 1970, Hans passed away in Edmonton W. W. Cross hospital from leukemia.

His wife and three sons stayed on the farm and worked together until 1976 when Wally took over the home place and Herman bought John Drysdale's place, and Kenneth bought Mrs. Collins' place on the correction line.

Their mother, Frieda, moved into town in 1976 but still enjoys going out to their farms.

Eberhart, John Frederick

John Frederick Eberhart migrated from St. Francis, Kansas, U.S.A. in 1912 at the age of 17 years, along with his mother and stepfather August and Magdaline Miller and his uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gienger and families. His parents settled on a farm in the Martins District, 16 miles southwest of Vegreville.

In the year 1898, at the age of 3 years, Mary Elizabeth Giebelhaus migrated with her parents Adam and Ann Katherine Giebelhaus, and her paternal grandparents, George and Margaret Giebelhaus, to Stony Plain, Alberta from Norka, Russia. In the spring of 1908 they moved with their families to the Martins District, where Mary Elizabeth continued her education in the Martins School, later known as the John Adam School.

On April 5, 1917 John Frederick Eberhart and Mary Elizabeth Giebelhaus were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, as there was no established church in the community at that time.



Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Eberhart, 1917.

The Emmanuel Evangelical Church was established later that year at which time they became charter members and were active until their passing.

As a young couple, they settled on a farm 15 miles southwest of Vegreville, purchased from Mr. Peter Kjosness, known as the Martins store, post office and creamery.

They gave birth to 11 children, 9 of whom are living and received their early education at the same school their mother attended. The school is now known as Adams Community Hall, located on the southeast corner of their farm.

Their eldest daughter Ruby Eberhart resides in Madras, South India; a missionary with O.M.S. International.

Ernest and Katherine Eberhart, (nee Dennington) reside in Vermilion, Alberta. Ernest is employed as a heavy duty mechanic with the Provincial Government, Katherine is employed with the Toronto Dominion Bank as an assistant accountant. Their sons, Gregory and Kevin are attending the University of Alberta. Gregory majoring in pharmacy and Kevin in Honors Zoology.

Sophia and Francis Bowsher (nee Eberhart) reside in Edmonton. Francis is employed at Western Propeller, Sophia with the Misericordia Hospital as a Revenue Services Co-ordinator.

Ezra Eberhart, an active member in the Holden community, resides on the home farm and is involved in mixed farming.

Daniel and Mary Eberhart (nee Sokalski) reside in Edmonton. Daniel is a cattle buyer and is owner-operator of a feed lot in the Bruce area. Mary is a stenographer at the University of Alberta. Their children Wayne and Dennis reside on a family farm east of Vegreville and Gail is employed as a dietician in Red Deer, Alberta.

Alvira and Albert Boettcher (nee Eberhart) reside in Edmonton. Albert is an instructor at N.A.I.T.

Alvira is a housewife and active in community activities, especially in art and painting.

Their son and daughter-in-law, Arden and Rosemarie Boettcher with their daughter Chelsea reside in Edmonton. Arden is employed at Weston Bakeries. Rosemarie is Policy Holder Service Clerk with North American Life Insurance. Their daughter, Lynn Boettcher graduated from the University of Alberta in Engineering and took further studies at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, B.C. and is now teaching at Chatham, Ontario.

Clayton and Ila Eberhart (nee Nance) reside in Bonnyville, Alberta. Clayton works in the pipeline industry and of late spent much time in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Ila is employed at the Bonnyville Hospital. Their daughter Laurie resides in Quesnel, British Columbia with her family.

Eva Eberhart resides in Edmonton. She has been employed with the Provincial Government most of her working years. She has travelled extensively in India, South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Alaska, Eastern Canada, United States, Israel, Jordan, London and Switzerland.

Ilene and Douglas Henkel (nee Eberhart) reside on a farm south of Duffield, Alberta. They operate a large mixed farm and are active in the community.

John F. Eberhart resided on his farm until the time of his death on February 8, 1959 at the age of 64 years. He was active in farming, community and church activities. The farm was then sold to Ezra Eberhart and Mary E. Eberhart resided with him until 1974, at which time she moved to Edmonton where she resided until her death on September 10, 1976 at the age of 80 years.

The Eberhardt children are all happily married and settled down.

Eickmeyer, Edward John and Mary (as told by daughter Ida)

Ed, the eldest of a family of eleven children, was born in 1889 near Mitchell, Ontario. From the age of eighteen he was interested in carpentry and learned the trade "from the foundation up" as it were. He owes his building knowledge to a very exacting boss who guided his 'carpenter gang' in those early years. Wages were 75¢ per day, from sunrise to sundown and no coffee breaks. During this time, news of the West was heard and Ed dreamed of travelling to the 'land of opportunity'. On hearing of a family nearby which was venturing out to Alberta, he decided to accompany them, with \$90.00 — his carefully guarded assets. Since Charles Querengesser was also a carpenter, Ed was to benefit from this common interest on arrival in Edmonton in March of 1910. Some of the



"Down at the school on a Saturday" — taken by the teacher at Brush Hill around 1923. Bill Eickmeyer, Ida and Collie.

houses they built in the city at that time are still in use.

In 1911 Ed was married to Mary Querengesser, the daughter of his 'western' carpenter boss. Courting had its problems then as now. Ed recalls walking home 25 blocks more than once after missing the last street car of the night.

Ed continued in the carpenter trade but soon "the slump" struck the city and with no work available it was decided that farming looked more attractive. In 1912, land in the Park Grove district, later known as the Henry Ziegler farm, was acquired. With assistance of brother Dan, Ed built the house (added to in later years by Jack Lowe), and another brother Dave worked on the land, plowing approximately 160 acres with a four-horse team and walking plow. A barn for eight horses was built — (many years later, in 1946, Ed constructed a gothic-roof barn for the Henry Zieglers.)

In April of 1913, Ed and Mary and their two small sons began residence in the Park Grove district. A

large garden provided ample produce, including cabbage for the annual making of sauerkraut; hogs provided for home-cured hams, bacon and home-made sausage.

One of the winter functions of the time was the popular dance and box social. The young ladies and wives were asked to provide lunch for two, the container to take any form, gaily decorated and supposedly a secret as far as boy friends and husbands were concerned. The 'boxes' were auctioned off and proceeds used for community projects. The ingenuity of the ladies produced such items as a cardboard shoe, violin, house or barn, hat, etc. Prices of the 'boxes' were often driven to unexpected levels by the competition of the bidders.

When two other related families wished to leave Edmonton to settle on farms, three adjoining quarters were purchased in the Brush Hill district and the Ed Eickmeyers moved there in 1915. While in Park Grove they had experienced the loss of their second son and the birth of daughter Ida.

Ed recalls that, in 1916, winter came early and severe. Grain stooks were frozen to the ground and in order to get feed for livestock, logging chains were thrown around the stooks which were then pulled loose by horses. The following spring was late, plowing and cultivating so slow that it was decided to seed oats directly into the stubble. After all the reverses, a reward finally came in the form of eighty bushels of oats per acre. Another year, Ed remembers being offered 40¢ per bushel for his grain in the stook. He rejected the bid since the outlook generally was for rising prices, and ended up receiving 10¢ per bushel at the elevator. In 1918 a good crop suffered a heavy frost in July when grain was headed but not nearly ripe. The wheat bundles were fed to livestock and oats was baled and sent to Taber, Alberta, to ease a feed shortage there. Bales sold at \$6.00 per ton.

Canning garden produce and wild fruit was an



Plowing at Brush Hill around 1924 on Ed. Eickmeyer's farm. Henry Borgens at left — Bill, Ida, and Ed.

annual chore for the housewife. In 1923 wild saskatoons were so abundant that even though the Eickmeyer family was leaving within a few days for an "Old Boys' Reunion" in Ontario, young Bill persuaded his mother to "just come and look". Somehow time was found to pick and preserve 70 quarts of berries before departure.

Fuel for the kitchen range and heater consisted of wood and coal. An annual winter activity was the hauling of same by team and sleigh. To procure the wood, Ed travelled ten miles east. This required an early morning start with the rear runners 'folded' over the front ones, a lunch wrapped in the horse blankets, a sharp axe and feed for the horses securely tied on. On arrival at the open land the horses were fed, cutting began, and in one and a half hours, trees had been felled and branches removed in such a way that the sleigh could be driven between rows of logs which were loaded and preparation made to return home. The team required a drink which was provided by a spring close by the road. The spring water gathered in a box and stayed open all winter due to its steady movement. On one occasion the box had ruptured and there was no water — only the long icy stream to the ravine below. When the weather was very cold, the driver walked most of the way in order to keep warm. In the evening the screeching sound of the steel runners and horses' hoofs in the snow and a sort of laboring, steaming sound of the horses, announced the approach, in the crisp air and darkness, of the husband who would be hungry and cold. If ever a hot meal was eagerly anticipated, it was then.

The log-sawing operation took place whenever George Brown, the owner of the machine, made his rounds in the community. One year the circular saw was not working as efficiently as it should. Ed observed that it had very little set and was rather dull. While the rest of the crew of six ate their dinner, Ed sharpened the teeth with a file at hand and set them with a punch and hammer. In spite of the makeshift tools for the job, the cutting blade worked much



Ed Eickmeyer in front of his new bank-barn. Bill and Ida on Queen. About 1922.

better and “we really cut wood that afternoon” says Ed. The logs were cut in lengths to fit into the kitchen range. However, for storing, the great mound of wood had to be neatly piled in rows at the back of the house, and this after the larger pieces had been split by hand with an axe. Mother was an expert piler and as Bill became old enough, she taught him the art of building the supporting ends by placing split pieces in opposite directions in alternate layers. On one occasion, tears flowed as the carefully placed wood suddenly spilled over in a confused heap. Some years after we left the farm a most unfortunate tragedy took place there when John Hohn, a neighbor, lost his life due to a sawing accident.

In 1923 pastures were short and cattle were not allowed to run at large as in the past. A number of farmers combined their herds (140 head) and drove them north to pasture about nine miles east of the Duvernay Crossing. This was done by Herb Flewell, Adolph Gafka, and Carl James with their saddle horses. That same year, on October 28th, threshing was progressing at Alf Bronken’s in unusually warm weather — some crew members working without their shirts. Next morning there was a foot of snow and the temperature was -40 degrees F. The following day, riders Gafka and James started north to bring home the cattle which now would be unable to find feed or water. Ed was to follow with bedding on sleigh and rack. Herb had been injured on the threshing outfit so he travelled by the Vegreville-to-St. Paul stage. Ed, with Herb’s horses and his own, organized a four-horse team without which he could not have reached his destination on the heavy roads. Ed was the last man to cross the North Saskatchewan by ferry — next morning the ice had formed on the river. By this time horse-drawn freighters had gathered at Duvernay, not able to cross on the ice which was not safe as yet. When the herd of cattle arrived on the north side, sawdust from the Duvernay sawmill was spread in a path across the ice. Water, from a hole in the frozen river, was poured on this until the depth of ice was strong enough. The wagon was pulled across by hand, horses were led in single file and finally the cattle filed across with the leader of the herd ahead. It had taken six to eight days to round up the herd, twenty minutes to cross the river and now they were on their way to home and safety.

In 1921 daughter Elna was born. After nine years of farming in Brush Hill, the Ed Eickmeyers moved to Vegreville in 1925. Dad had done some building — the Brush Hill church in 1915 and later a bank-barn for himself, but now was able to devote full time to his favorite vocation. He constructed thirteen barns, nine houses and several country schools. Even I got into the construction action by cooking meals for

Dad when he built the Birch Hill School, little knowing that years later I would marry Philip Austin and live only three miles from the same school (now closed).

For a few years Ed assisted in the school building program in the Vegreville School Division under son Bill. Later, in semi-retirement, he was employed by the town to locate surveyor’s stakes, and often settled differences regarding property lines.

Retirement finally came to Ed and Mary who both enjoyed good health and were persuaded that the time had come to do some travelling — that work would always be there but life would not.

Mary passed away in April of 1979. Ed is a guest at Vialta Lodge in Viking.

Bill has two daughters: Lynne (Mrs. Ed Dwyer) and Norma (Mrs. Ben Ralph). His wife, the former Joyce Dandy, passed away in August of 1978.

Ida (Mrs. Philip Austin) has one stepson Richard.

Elna married Don Archer. They have two sons: David and Michael. Elna died in October, 1979.

Eliuk, Harry and Stefania **by Harry Eliuk**

I was born in Shepenitz, Ukraine, January 22, 1906. About the age of 12, I started working out, first with a shoemaker, then repairing tinware with a tin-smith; after that working as a house servant for a rich landlord. I dug wells and laid the stonework, brick-laid outdoor ovens, carpentered and also worked in a sugar factory.

Dur to poor conditions in the Ukraine at the time, Nick and Martha Eliuk, my parents, decided that the children should be sent to Canada. Sister Maria came to Canada in 1922, brother Metro in 1924, and brother George in 1928. At the age of 20, I, with my sister Anne, age 16, arrived in Halifax, Canada, on October 3, 1926.

Before I came to Canada I made a cross for the inside of our church in the Ukraine. My sister Jennie, who is still in the Ukraine and who came to visit us here in 1977, says the cross is still in the church.

After arriving in Canada we took a train to Vilna, Alberta, where we had 5 uncles and 2 aunties, who arrived earlier in 1902, and were settled on homesteads.

I helped my uncle Harry Rosychuk in a general store in Vilna and worked on farms cutting bush.

Next I went to my brother Metro in Two Hills, who came here 2 years earlier and I worked one year on the farm to repay the cost of the trip here, \$175.00. In the winter I worked in Two Hills, building a hotel for Korpan and Hrynyk.

In 1928 my brother Metro and I bought a ½

section of land on Sickman Hill, Lavoy. The first year was dry, no crop. The second year there was a good crop, but hailed so heavily it was a total loss.



Children of Harry and Stefanie Eliuk as they were growing up and going to Vegreville schools, 1951.



Harry Eliuk has been doing carpentry work for 48 years in Vegreville. Here he is on the job, 1946.



Harry Eliuk's Store on Highway 16, on site of present Chateau Dining Hall. He and his wife, Stefanie, operated the Hardware and Building Supply, 1950.

I then took up work in Vegreville. The first job I had was to rebuild Sam Milner's Store, where now stands Vinets' Shopping Centre. Beside him was Sam Segal, who had a second-hand store, and George Fliczuk, general store. I worked for them also. I got a steady job with Louis Milner in the Prince Edward Hotel, doing carpentry work, plumbing, electrical, painting or whatever came along. After hours I worked at odd jobs, repairing and painting at such places as Klimoffs, Adlers, Shaws, Kliens and Dr. Hardins.

In 1933 I got married to Stefanie Tkachuk from Kaleland. We bought 2 acres of land by the National elevator, south where now stands Welins Bottle Depot.

I worked at Milner's Prince Edward Hotel till 1939. During that time I was paid 25¢ per hour. This was during the depression and I had to work after hours anywhere I got a job so as to start building a home a little bit at a time. It took quite a few years to finish it.

In 1939 I was asked to work for the Two Hills School Division, building, repairing and painting schools and teacherages. The pay was good, at the time 65¢ per hour, mileage and overtime. Some of the schools I built were Pathfinder, Pruth, Deep Lake, Bila and Primula. I also built the School Division Office Building at Two Hills.

After four years I decided to work in the town of Vegreville again building Sheldon's store for Mr. Panar. The building is now Pinball Wizard Arcade on main street. Then I rebuilt such business places as Muzyka and Tunis; IDA, formerly Rexall Drugs; Wade's Furniture; Marshall Wells; Klien's; Vegreville Bakery; 5¢-\$1.00; Krewusik's pool hall, now Robinson's; to name a few. I also built Frank Allore's Garage; Olyan's Wholesale and Warehouse; Canadian Utilities Warehouse; a building east of the Bank of Toronto, which holds the Flower Shop, Barber Shop, and Hobby Shop.

I then built myself a building where now stands the Chateau Dining Hall. We had the Hi-way Hardware and Building Supplies store for two years. My wife was managing the store. Macleod's rented this building for a few years.

I also built homes for such people as Steve Nikiforuk, Mrs. Ropchan, Nick Kieryluk, Dr. N. J. Kuzyk, Dr. J. J. Lukenchuk, Dr. Jan Stefancik, Russel Nikiforuk to name a few. I have been working in Vegreville for 48 years.

In 1972 Stefanie and I decided to sell our acreage, build a new home in the town of Vegreville and semi-retire.

We have raised five children: Lillian Berezan, Vegreville; Nadia Shpur, Fort McMurray; Ruby Mal-

inski, Hinton; Marshall Eliuk, Hinton — all in Alberta and Virginia Pettman, Eagle Creek, B.C.

Elkow, Andrew and Elena

by Andrew Elkow

My wife, Elena, and I, Andrew Elkow, left the Kolomea district of the Ukraine in 1901, I being 48 and my wife ten years younger. We brought our four children, travelling by ship, train, and horse and buggy to settle north of Royal Park (then called Raith). The school district was called “Kolomea” after our home in the Ukraine.

About once a year we got our supplies from Edmonton, unless neighbors went more often. When the Canadian Northern Railway was being built in 1905, the workers got their water supply, milk, cream, cheese, butter and vegetables from our farm, as it was only one-quarter of a mile from the right-of-way. Most of the workers then were Italian. Our daughter, Mary (later Mrs. Victor Lemiski), fell on a pitchfork and pierced her eyelid just above the eye; it made her very ill as the sore festered and would not heal. One of the CNR workmen brought his first-aid kit and cleaned the sore and applied medications and in this way her sight was saved.

My wife, Elena, was a midwife and people came for help — night or day or holiday; sometimes she was away for days and I would not even know where she was, as she was often called from farm to farm.

There were bears around the area and when Elena and I were both away we would often come home to find the children sitting on the highest building (chicken coop) roof, waiting for us.

As soon as we had wheat, we ground our own flour with a home-made grinder made of two stones, we also used lots of rye flour. For meat we had lots of wild ducks, partridges, and rabbits and we went to Beaver Lake for fish (Jack-fish and suckers) and dried some for later use. We kept hogs and killed one every year. Our baking was done in an earth oven outside, replaced by our first stove, a McClary range, bought in 1916. Our food was plain and wholesome, except on holidays when we would have fresh meat and fancy pastries. Our children were: Annie, Christine, Mike, Mary, Pearl, and Bill.

Emery, Frank

contributed by Ruby and Gordon Fraser

Frank and Mary Emery farmed in Iowa, USA, but always dreamed of coming to Canada. So in 1904, they shipped their furniture, stock, and settlers' effects to Edmonton, Alberta. Fort Saskatchewan was home for one year where Mrs. Emery and three daughters, Pearl, Ruby, and Nora raised a big

garden and kept the stock, while Mr. Emery took out a homestead nine miles north of Vegreville at Warwick. That summer he built a log house and did some fencing; when the move was made in the fall, the cellar was ready for the piles of vegetables which were a matter of life or death importance. Stacks of wood and hay were built from the plentiful supplies nearby; later, as more settlers came with more stock, the free hay became scarce and so it was claimed by the first farmer who cut a swath around any unfenced slough.

At first Edmonton was the nearest supply place, but soon the CNR came — a godsend, for then cattle and hogs could be shipped and shopping done in Vegreville. Ernie Emery had preceded his brother to Canada; later brothers Andrew and Zeb and sister Lillian (McMillan) came. The first school was Brookside (where Warwick siding was set later on the CPR); it was on John Tillapaugh's land and meant a mile-and-a-half trip, which could be awful in forty below with drifting snow. Often the kids and teacher would have to sit around the pot-bellied stove to thaw out before classes could start.

In 1906, a prairie fire burned all stacked grains and out-buildings; for safety, the children were placed in the bare garden area to survive. Later, as grain production increased, Frank and Ernie Emery bought a steam engine and separator, and as all grain was stacked then, they threshed late into fall and even until after Christmas. Most farms were only partly broken, so a typical crop might be only a few hours' threshing, and then a big move to the next farm. It was a memorable sound when the ear-splitting steam whistle and the clanking heavy wheels moved through the crips, frosty, countryside. Stock ran on the open range in those early years; one result was a part-buffalo calf which eventually became a good milk cow, giving rich milk for the Emerys for many years. They always kept a large garden, plenty of meat, stored salted in oak barrels; flour made from their own grain by the mill in Mundare.

Frank and Mary and their family, including Jessie, born in Canada, were very active in the Warwick community, and were much respected by all. A great deal of visiting was done; it was common to travel twenty miles by team to picnics and ballgames in the summer or to card-parties and dances in the winter when the sleigh-boxes would be filled with hay and large hot stones to keep the merry-makers warm. At the school parties, one corner would be set aside for the many children where they slept soundly on the floor while the dancers tripped the light fantastic till the wee hours.

The Emery girls became Mrs. Pearl McGowan of Hairy Hill, Mrs. Ruby Fraser of Warwick, and Mrs.

Jessie Lank of Warwick. Ruby recalls that the “good old days” were not that good as there were the awful hardships of mosquitoes, no power appliances, apple boxes for chairs, outside toilets in 25 below weather, and no doctors nearby. But there were good and helpful neighbors, of all nationalities, from which life-long friendships resulted, which have grown stronger through the years, as Gordon Fraser (Ruby’s son) noted at the great Brush Hill Reunion in the summer of 1979.

Engel Family

by Major and Mrs. F. J. W. Fane

Joseph Engel was born in 1870 in Beckersdorf, Austria, and was a blacksmith by trade and worked in his father’s shop. He served three years in the Compulsory Army and in 1896 married Sophia Lesniak from a nearby village.

Canada was growing and needed settlers to develop it. Western Canada was just sparsely settled and the government at the time sent agents to all countries to encourage people to come to Canada. Agents described Canada as a land of freedom, of homestead, and of milk and honey.

In 1900 Joseph Engel and Sophia decided to make Canada their new home where there was freedom, not realizing they were facing hardships in a barren country. Mrs. Engel’s father and mother, Frank and Anna Lesniak, decided to go along. In the late fall of 1900 the two families left for Canada on the ship called S. S. Tunisian. They sailed for eight days and arrived in Halifax and then went on to Montreal. From Montreal they travelled by train to Winnipeg, but did not stay too long as they were told that further West there was more land available. They arrived in Strathcona and by this time, it was late October.

In Strathcona the men left their families and went in search of land. At that time missionary priests were instrumental in helping the new settlers get

together where a church could be built. Father Olszewski was then the priest in that area and helped the Engels to settle around Beaver Lake. By the time the land was picked and staked out, it was late fall and winter came early, so the families had to live in a quickly-made house. There were plenty of large trees for a house and tall grass for a thatched roof. Life in the early days of the Engel family had its hardships but it also had its joy. In 1901 Mr. Engel had walked to Edmonton to get some flour, sugar and supplies. He did not make it in one day and had to spend a night or two in the wilderness and build a fire to keep warm. In 1905 Mundare got started and supplies were easier to get.

Joseph Engel took his blacksmith’s tools he had in Austria, hoping to start a business of his own but lost them all on the ship. When spring came he built a more comfortable home.

Men worked in coal mines and walked as far as Calgary and Lethbridge. One day when Joseph Engel and his friends were on their way to a coal mine, walking on the railroad track, they spotted a hand car. They got on and started pumping it along and making good speed. They saw lights of a train coming so they stopped suddenly and flipped the hand car over into the ditch and hid themselves. When the train went by, they picked the hand car up and put it on the tracks again, but found they had stripped the gears, so they had to continue on foot again.

In 1905 Joseph Engel bought his first team of horses, a wagon, a sleigh and with a small plough, more land was broken. In 1905, June 30th, he got the title to one quarter of land, S.E. ¼ Section 4, Township 53, Range 17, West of the 4th. In the winter of



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Engel. About 1930.



Mrs. Engel's brother and family. Early 1900's.



Kazmer Engel's well drilling machine. About 1950.

and a threshing machine, the first in that district. Grain was cut with a binder and stacked in large stacks and then threshed. Sometimes threshing went late into winter before all the neighbours' grain was threshed. In 1919, when threshing during the winter, Joseph Engel got caught in the belt of the machine and was seriously injured and his arm badly broken.

In 1920 he bought his first Model T Ford car and had hired men on the farm, broke more land and put up more buildings. Tractors were bought and better ploughs were available and, as always, the neighbours helped each other in all sorts of work. Working bees were organized where again the neighbours came and helped. There were no doctors at hand and no hospital close, so even in childbirth, the neighbours helped each other.

Mr. Engel was a blacksmith so he was able to fix any machine that broke. He had a blacksmith shop with a forge and bellows where he heated iron or whatever he had to fix. He made garden tools, axes and sharpened plough shares for himself and his neighbours. He also made a grinder, with two flat round stones and a hole in the center of the top one to pour grain into. These two stones were encased in a wooden frame where one stone turned round and round and crushed wheat, oats or buckwheat. Ground wheat and oats were used for porridge and for feed for small chicks and ducks. He was good at whittling wood and make wooden bowls which were a great help in the kitchen. He was Chairman of the Municipal District of the Pines and a Trustee in the Ukraina School which was built in 1909.

When Ukraina School was built, a two-room teacherage was built also. The teachers always had a concert before Christmas and all the parents came to watch the children perform. Santa Claus would arrive with sleigh bells ringing and presented the children with candies and apples and small presents. In about

RB-150

RATION BOOK 3

CARNET DE RATIONNEMENT 3

341

CANADA

Name
Nom: MILLIE ENGEL

Street Address or R.R. No.
No et rue ou R.R. No.: MUNDARE

City or Town
Ville ou Village: ALTA

Province
Province: ALTA

Prefix and
Serial Number: EN 286536 No de Série
(avec lettres)

Write Age if under 16: 16 Indiquez l'Age si moins de 16:

Ration Book 3, Millie Engel, Mundare, Alberta. Early 1940's.

1913 and 1914, logs were hauled across Beaver Lake for a new house. In 1914 a much larger house was built and farm life was comfortable and happy.

In 1914 the first World War broke out and neighbours got together to exchange news of the families that were left behind in the old country. Mail arrived occasionally and the newspapers were shared with the neighbours. In 1918 a flu plague took away a lot of the Beaver Lake people, but the Engels were very fortunate.

In 1917 Joseph Engel bought a Case steam engine

This licence MUST be kept on station and available for inspection

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT—RADIO DIVISION
1944-45

Private Receiving Station Licence
(Issued in accordance with the provisions of The Radio Act, 1930, and the Regulations made thereunder.)

LA 34953

MILLIE ENGEL
PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

MUNDARE
City, Province, District

IS HEREBY LICENSED, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH ON THE BACK HEREOF, TO ESTABLISH A PRIVATE RECEIVING STATION AND OR TO OPERATE ONE OR MORE RADIO RECEIVING SETS INSTALLED IN THE SAID STATION, AND INTENDED SOLELY FOR AND CAPABLE OF RECEIVING BROADCASTING.

AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS ☒ IN AN AUTOMOBILE ☐

Insert X in square in which this licence is applicable

THIS LICENCE EXPIRES ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1945

RECEIVED THE SUM OF TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS \$2.50. LICENCE FEE

THIS 5 DAY OF April, 1944

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY Om Seiden

Form 2012 To be handed to Licensee

Radio Licence, 1944.

Department of the Interior,

Ottawa, JUN 30 1905 1905

Sir,

I have to inform you that a patent for
S 2 1/4 of Section 4
in Township 53 Range 17 West
of the 4th Meridian,
bearing date the 15th May 1905
has issued in your name, and that in accordance with the
provisions of Section 39 of "The Land Titles Act, 1894,"
being Chapter 28 of 57-58 Victoria, it has been forwarded to
the Registrar of the Land Registration District of
North Alberta
who will furnish you with a duplicate certificate of title free
of charge upon receipt of your application to him therefor,
provided he finds the land unencumbered.

For this purpose please place yourself in communication
with that official, giving him your full name and your Post
Office address.

The registrar's address is THE REGISTRAR,
EDMONTON, ALTA.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

PERLEY G. KEYES,
Secretary.

To Josef Engel, Esq.
1 Beaver Lake
Alta.

Form No. 31 A.

sent to Reg.
30 Aug 6

1950 or so, the provincial government closed the country schools because there was a shortage of teachers who wanted to live in the country and teach. The children were bused into Mundare School and then the roads on the school bus route were well kept, summer and winter.

Christmas was a great occasion in the Engel family and it had the real true religious meaning of the Birth of Christ. Mrs. Engel always prepared a lot of good food and on Christmas Eve, the family and the invited neighbours sat at a large table. Mr. Engel would say Grace and broke bread with the family. Large white round wafers were given to families by the church and these wafers were broken and shared by the family. For midnight service everyone went to church and when they came home, everyone sang carols, ate and celebrated till late in the morning. Carollers would come on Christmas Eve and they were always treated to food and drink. On Christmas Day there was always a turkey and more good food. A Christmas tree was put up on Christmas Eve, decorated with candles, candies, pop corn strung up, and other small decorations. Mrs. Engel was a great singer. She sang in the church choir in Austria, so her singing helped at Christmas festivities. She was described by the children as being the "diamond in the ring" and no phrase could be more suitable.

During the summer days there was always a lot of work and chores to be done by the children, but there was a reward on Sunday. After church the Engels always had visitors and on many Sundays, they had an outside picnic in the yard or by a lake. The picnic was often livened with a keg of beer.

Winter evenings in the Engel family were always happy. Mrs. Engel would read a chapter or two from a storybook. One of them was "Quo Vadis". She loved reading books and the children certainly enjoyed listening. Neighbours would come to spend an evening and either Mr. Engel or the neighbour would tell stories. Some were very interesting tales and experiences of the old country. There was one neighbour who came almost every night to play cards. The card game was King Pedro or Wagon and this neighbour would go home and be teased that he was taking home several wagons. Sewing, knitting, crocheting, embroidering, rug-making and quilting were also done during the evenings. Neighbouring children and the Engel family would shovel the snow on Beaver Lake or a large slough and skate. A lot of fishing was done during the winter as Beaver Lake had fish in the early days.

The Engels had a home-made telephone and a couple of neighbours talked to each other. The telephone wire was farm barbed wire. Later the government installed a telephone line and there were about

eleven families on one party line, and it was interesting at times. When radios were available, the Engels got a radio and in those days everyone had to pay a license of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) to be allowed to operate it.

The Engels had a family of ten and it was a happy family.

Roberta Hewko — Had 6 children, lived in Vegreville, passed away in 1974 at the age of 74.

Kazmer Engel — Has two sons, lives in Beaver Lake.

Elbina Engel — Is a nun in St. Benedict Convent in Winnipeg

Mary McArdle — Has four children, lives in Edmonton.

Jean Tennant — Has four children, lives in Lethbridge.

John Engel — Has three children, lives in Edmonton.

Emily Gasper — Has four children, lives in Florida.

Amelia Fane — Has two children, lives in Bremner.

Frank Engel — Has five children, lives in Edmonton.

Josephine Kropielnicki — Has four children, lives at Ryley.

Mrs. Engel was born in 1877 and died at the age of 62 in 1939.

Mr. Engel was born in 1870 and died at the age of 86 in 1956.

English, Samuel R.

The Samuel R. English family came from Manitoba early in 1902, settling first, temporarily, near Strathcona. S.R. English was quite a widely known breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle so preferred pasture land with a good water supply rather than wheatland. This he found in 1902 near the present site of Two Hills on the S.W. 25-54-13-W4. During that summer he erected the necessary buildings.

The family arrived at their new home on April 7, 1904 after an arduous trek over prairie roads — or no roads at all — from Strathcona. This trek was repeated during the next year since the railroad did not reach Vegreville until 1905 and Strathcona was the nearest railroad point for necessary supplies.

At first language was a bit of a barrier as most of their neighbors were Ukrainian. This was soon overcome as they became excellent neighbors and life-long friends, occasionally turning to "Mr. Sam" (since many could not accept "English" as a surname) for medical and legal advice.

Initially, the nearest Post Office was at Warwick which was nine or ten miles away. There was also a small store there. The coming of the railroad, and the town of Vegreville, brought the area much closer to civilization.



The famous English field-stone house built in 1914 and still standing.

Warwick also had church services as it was a Methodist mission field. These services were given by student ministers who changed each year. The services were given every second week. Since there was no central meeting-place, the English and Charlie Monkman homes were used. The gathering of the few English-speaking neighbors meant an outing, as well as a church service. During the first war, services were discontinued, so Rev. R. W. W. Alexander, the Anglican minister from Vegreville, preached in the area once a month. Every fourth Sunday of the month, he would hold three services in the area: Wattsford at 11:00 a.m., Wolia at 3:00 p.m., and Soda Lake at 7:00 p.m. These points were all about ten or fifteen miles apart, and as he rode horseback, it meant a long tiring day. He always had a good congregation made up of all sects: Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian.

There were no schools in the area until 1907 or 1908. The nearest school to the English home was erected in 1908 and named after a neighbour, John Laniuk. However, due to an error by the Department of Education, was misspelled Lainuk. S. R. English was the first Secretary-Treasurer, a position he held until about 1914. The first teacher was a Mr. G. E. H. Smith. He stayed a year. Then a young woman from Edmonton, newly out from Ontario, was hired. She drove out from Vegreville, took one look at the school and surroundings, and went right back to Edmonton. Mrs. English had been a teacher in Ontario so she was asked to take over, temporarily. This she did, remaining on the job until her resignation in 1915. Within two years the School Board asked her to return, and this time she remained until 1934.

By 1914, the English family found that a new and larger house was a necessity. S. R. English chose the most available material, field stone, of which a good deal was joyfully supplied by the neighbors. Mr. Burleigh Jewell and his brother George, of Hairy

Hill, did the stonework. (At present, the only surviving person who worked on the house is Mr. Dan Eickmeyer of Ontario). In 1915, a large barn was built, but it was destroyed by fire in 1921. The same day, Tommy suffered a broken leg when he stepped in a badger hole as he rode to his brother Garnet's home looking for help. The leg never healed satisfactorily and remained a handicap all his life.

S. R. English died in 1924 and was buried in Vegreville by the St. John's Lodge through the Union Church (which in 1925 became the United Church). He had helped to organize the Lodge but did not join as the distance was too great for regular attendance.

S. R. English was married twice. His first wife passed away around 1895, leaving two daughters: Stella (Mrs. C. W. Speers) 1884-1971; and Viola (Mrs. C. A. Ahlstrom) 1890-1942. He then married Annie J. P. Speers and the couple had six children: Garnet W. English, 1899-1970; Eleanor (Mrs. G. E. Baldwin) 1901-; Thomas S. English, 1907-1971; M. Edith (Mrs. E. J. Ahlstrom) 1908-; George A. English, 1915-; and F. Dean English, 1917-.

Stella and Wesley Speers were married in Edmonton in 1904 and came out to live on an adjoining farm in 1905. They farmed in the Two Hills area until 1945 when they retired to New Westminster, B.C. They had one daughter, Evelyn (Mrs. Frank Allore) presently living in Edmonton.

Viola and Clarence Ahlstrom also farmed in the Two Hills area.

Garnet married Beatrice Piche and farmed part of the English land (the former Charlie Monkman place). The couple had four children: a daughter, Bernice, now living at Calmar, Alberta; and three sons, Sam, Jim and Reg, now in the state of Washington.

Eleanor married George Baldwin of Lavoy in 1926 and they have three children: two sons, George of Prince George, B.C.; and Dale of New York; and a daughter Marion of Washington.

Thomas married Margaret Isbister and the couple farmed the School land which had been purchased in 1910 by his father.

Edith married Edwin Ahlstrom and shortly after the second war moved to the Ahlstrom farm in the Beauvallon area. The couple have three children: a son, Leslie of Sherwood Park, Alberta; and two daughters, Jean of Sherwood Park and Barbara of Two Hills.

George married Alberta Dow and also farmed in the Two Hills area.

Dean married Isabelle Reesor (formerly of Vegreville) and moved to Lacombe, Alberta where he was a pharmacist.

The declaration of war in 1939 brought notable

changes. Garnet and George enlisted at once in the Edmonton Regiment, and Dean joined them in 1941. All of the English children received their public school education in Lainuk school, and Eleanor, Tommy and Edith attended High School in Vegreville. Eleanor later attended Normal School in Camrose and became a teacher, and Edith trained in the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary and became a registered nurse. George and Dean attended High School in Two Hills. Dean continued his education after the war and became a pharmacist.

Mrs. Annie English continued to live on at the farm after her retirement from teaching until a few years before she passed away in 1959.

Erickson Family by George Erickson

My father, Eric Albert Erickson, was born and raised in Sweden where he married Ellen Jelena Johanson. After the birth of their first child they emigrated to Canada. My father sailed to Liverpool and from there embarked for Canada on the S. S. Vancouver, which left May 1, 1896, and arrived at Port of Quebec May 31, 1896. Five months later my mother and baby sister followed the same route, leaving Liverpool on the S.S. Labrador and arriving at the Port of Quebec on October 31, 1896.

They filed on a homestead in Manitoba at Scandinavia and later transferred it to what is now known as Erickson. My three younger sisters and I were born here. The railroad was built by 1906 and went close by our house. There was no post office until one was opened on June 11, 1908. Dad was the first postmaster. It was at that time the town was named Erickson. I received my schooling in Erickson. In 1914 my father took his family and moved to Galveston, Texas. In 1918 I joined the Royal Canadian Field Artillery and was posted overseas. After the Armistice I returned to Canada and went to Fredericton, New Brunswick, where I met Miss Artie Mae Stuart who had been my faithful penpal for many years. Artie Mae grew up in Stanley, New Brunswick, and received her schooling there. We were married April 12, 1918, and went back to Texas. We lived there until after the birth of our first daughter Thelma and then returned to Canada in 1920. I had some friends who were living at Ranfurly, Alberta, so we journeyed there and took up land near there.

Ranfurly was a thriving little town in 1920. It had two grocery stores; a bank one day a week; a hardware store; a lumber yard; a blacksmith shop; a livestock dealer; a post office; a livery stable; a large boarding house; two machinery agents; a restaurant; two elevators; a school; a hotel; a section house; a station and a real estate office.



Threshing on the farm of Ed Stone. The baby on the blanket is Thelma Erickson. 1920.

The first year at Ranfurly, Artie and Thelma and I lived with a bachelor friend, Ed. Stone. He lived in a large log house built by Charles Johnson (the house is still standing), and now owned by John Charchuk. It was the home of the Baker family for many years.

I purchased a quarter of land from Charles A. Johnson, at that time pumpman for the C.N.R., and he and I built a house of railroad ties on it. The water tower was just down the hill a short distance from his residence. The house was one and a half storeys, with one room upstairs and one down. Charles Johnson also helped me dig the well which was 40 feet deep. I dug and he hauled up the dirt by windlass. We had good tasting clear water which made excellent coffee but was very hard. Artie used lye to soften it for washing and always had a snowy wash.

In the spring of 1921 we moved onto our own land where we built a barn with four stalls — two for horses and two for cows. We bought a team of horses



The George Erickson family. (l. to r.) Thelma, Artie Mae with Alvin on her lap, Roberta, Ruth and George. 1930.



A picnic combined with a day of cherry-picking made for a happy time for the Ericksons, 1930.

from Mr. Cox at Vegreville and a team from Mr. Skinner at Ranfurly. Two cows cost us \$80.00 each. We started farming with a gang plow, a seeder and harrows.

We seeded 30 acres of wheat on our quarter and approximately 50 acres of oats on a quarter I rented from Fred East on half-crop shares. In 1923 our second daughter, Ruth, was born. That year I put an addition on the house — a large kitchen and pantry on the north side which provided much-needed living space. The barn also got an addition, for our livestock had increased. Our family at this time included a third daughter, Roberta, born in 1925.

In the spring of 1927 I bought a tractor and in the fall a threshing machine. With this outfit I did custom work around the district for the next thirty years until we got a combine. In 1928 I purchased another quarter of land from C.P.R. and broke it up in 1929. It cost \$15.00 an acre to break. The years were hard years — dry, and crops were not good at times, and in 1930 the crops were good but the market fell and the price of grain did not cover the cost of harvesting it. It was at this time that our son, Alvin, was born. My father came to live with us in 1930 and stayed until the time of his death in 1934. He is buried in Ranfurly Cemetery.



George Erickson and Edwin Lundgren breaking land. 1922.



C.N.R. Water Tower and pump-house, two miles east of Ranfurly. 1920.

In 1934 we tore down the original part of the house and put up a snug log house. I hauled logs home from the ranch near Birch Lake. I hired a man to peel and hew them. The house was warm and sturdy. In 1940 I purchased a third quarter of land at \$3.00 an acre for pasture land.

During the war years, prices became better and times became more prosperous for farmers. Throughout the years we became active in community affairs. The United Church was an important part of our activities. The curling association provided fun and recreation. We made many friends during our years in the Orange Lodge. Artie got a great deal of personal satisfaction from the U.C.W. and the Farm Women's Organization. There were other activities. I was a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, a director on the hall board, a member of the Committee of Stewards in the church and President of the Seed Cleaning Processors.

Daughter Ruth married Fred Smiley in 1940, Thelma married Ken Smiley in 1941, Roberta married John Weder in 1947 and Alvin married Jean Napier in 1958.

When Alvin married we bought a house in Ranfurly, where we still reside, and Alvin and his wife, Jean, and family live on the farm. We retired from active farming in 1975. We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1969 and our 60th in 1979.

The Fahy Family

by Art Fahy

I am Arthur Michael Fahy, the only survivor of the Fahy family.

John Joseph Fahy (my dad) was born in the state of Pennsylvania, U.S. (date unknown). The Fahys, my dad's parents and brothers and sisters, moved west to the State of Iowa. John Fahy met Bridget Josephine Hickey, sixth child, born June 13, 1865, of James and Margaret Hickey, of Emmetsburg, Iowa, U.S.A.

John Fahy and Bridget Hickey were married in

1886 and moved to Haysprings, Nebraska and lived there until 1894, when they came to Olds, Alberta. There were three sons when they came to Alberta: James, John William, and Daniel Leo.

I was born January 5, 1903, in Strathcona, North-West Territories. John Fahy Sr. died in July, 1904, Mrs. Fahy died in 1920, John Jr. died in 1930, James in 1970, and Leo in 1972.

There were no girls in the Fahy family, just four boys, none of whom got married. In the Hickey family, my mother's family, there were seven girls and seven boys — a big family.

In 1903 John Fahy and son James filed on homesteads six miles south of the present Lavoy (there was no Lavoy at that time). The post office was at Dinwoodie's on the north side of Sickman Hill, about 1902 to 1906.

My mother, being a widow in 1904, with son John, filed on homesteads near the other Fahy homesteads. In 1909 mother married Isaac Lawson Sinclair. The older boys had all left home and I had to live with Sinclairs for some time.



Jim Fahy and one of his pride and joy horses, 1920.



The Fahy Family, about 1900. (L. to r.) — Leo, Dad John, James, Mother Bridget, and John Jr.

There were three boys and two girls in the Sinclair family. The oldest girl Myrtle married John Alexander in 1909. And Lester, the baby of the Sinclair family, was born April 24, 1909, and his mom died shortly afterwards.

In 1905 Mrs. Fahy and four sons moved from Rabbit Hill, with horses and wagons or sleighs, to the homestead six miles south of Lavoy; there was no



Art Fahy, 1919. He has a remarkable recollection of names and past incidents. Presently lives in Vegreville.



The four Fahy brothers — (l. to r.) — Leo, Art, John Jr., James, 1920.



Then 1927 agent Bill Purdue of Lavoy Searle Grain at left and Art Fahy on wagon.

railroad or highways like now. Jim Fahy was working on the Canadian Northern Railway which later in the 1920's became the Canadian National Railroad along with the Grand Trunk Railroad which became the main line of the Canadian National Railroad. When our dad died in 1904, Jim had to come to Strathcona by team to the funeral.

In 1905 after we moved to the homestead, Jim went and worked on the approach to the Fort Saskatchewan railroad bridge. John and Leo were soldiers in the 1914 to 1918 war. John was in Germany in 1919 with the troops that went into Germany after the war. He was not very well afterwards and died in 1930.

The year 1911 Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair purchased a quarter-section of land one mile west of Lavoy. We moved there in 1912 and I started to attend Lavoy school in April, just before the Titanic sank. I was over nine years old when I started school and attended till 1918.

My mom and I went to Emmetsburg, Iowa, in 1912 and 1918. In 1912 when we were in Iowa it was the first time my mom saw her parents in eighteen years. Her dad passed away in 1914 so it was good she saw him. During the 1918 trip, mom saw most of her relatives. That was when influenza was so bad and my mom got very sick and never fully recovered. She passed away in 1920. I am glad she had that visit with her family and with her sons that returned from overseas in 1919, and were home for her funeral.

I worked out from 1918 to 1925. I stayed at my brother Jim's when I was not working. In 1925 I started to farm for myself on the quarter west of Lavoy. There I stayed until 1953 when I moved to Vegreville and here I have stayed. I worked in different places in Vegreville till I was eligible for pension. So I get along and let somebody else do the work.

The year 1929 when the Northern Alberta Railroad was built west from Peace River, the government, through the Soldier Settlement Board, opened up some land that had been an Indian Reserve north of Fairview. As soldiers, John and Leo both got half-sections (320 acres) there and they lived there the rest of their lives. James lived on his homestead south of Lavoy until 1937.

Fairbairn, John Samuel by Iola Chappell

It is essential that any Fairbairn story must start with the life of Granddad and Grandma Fairbairn.

Granddad was born in the year 1861 in Erin, Ontario and Grandma, whose maiden name was Martha Almira Hughston, was born in Orangeville, Ontario in 1863.

They were both pioneers in the true sense of the word, and came to Western Canada in the year 1891 to the town of Calgary. They then travelled by covered wagon to Strathcona, which was, at that time, the end of the steel and the beginning of the city of Edmonton.

I know little of this journey across Canada and of the trip to Edmonton from Calgary but often think that it must have been equal to any tale told by our American cousins who so boldly enamoured the settling of the great North-West.

My Grandparents brought with them their little family of four children. The oldest, John Samuel, my father, was born in 1885 in Orangeville, Ontario, as

was Uncle Tom Fairbairn in 1887. Aunt Ellen Blakely was born in Collingwood, Ontario in 1891 and Uncle Robert Douglas in Belview, Ont., in 1896.

As this story pertains to my own particular branch of the family, the others will, no doubt send in theirs.

No Fairbairn story can start, however, without a detailed description of the lives of my Grandparents, who I sincerely feel contributed a great deal to the various communities in which they lived, perhaps more so in the Warwick and Vegreville districts than any other; as they were the instigators of the saga I feel that it is necessary to follow their lives during this period.

As Uncle Tom Fairbairn was killed during the first Great War, it would seem appropriate to make mention of him here as he and Auntie Grace had no family to mention the sacrifice that he gave to his country, nor the heartbreak that his death must have brought to my Grandparents and the rest of the family.

My Grandparents were not long in Strathcona as they soon moved to Wetaskiwin, where Granddad

built his own Flour Mill. He operated this mill for a few years and then sold it and they moved to the Warwick district, where they farmed. The land he chose was the land upon which the Warwick store and post office stood for a number of years.

Granddad was a man of boundless energy and business acumen, as he soon sold the farm and moved to Vegreville, where he built another flour mill. As near as I can recall, this mill was built about 1905 and was to remain in the family for a number of years. Due to his illness Granddad sold the mill to Mr. Reesor who operated it for a number of years.

The mill once again returned to the family, and was operated by Uncle Bob for a number of years. This mill eventually burned down but I am unable to recall all the details in connection with the situation. Someone else may write in with more details than I have on it.

Granddad passed away on November 26th, 1926, and was laid to rest in the Vegreville cemetery, by the Rev. A. R. Schrag, who had married, buried and christened many members of our family.

Grandma lived many years after Granddad passed away; she moved to Edmonton where she stayed with her daughter Aunt Ella. "Gram" as we called her, passed away in Edmonton at the age of 98.

My Dad and Mother, Louise Hewer, were married in 1907 at Soda Lake. Mother was born in England in 1887 within the sound of the famous "Bow Bells" of London, a fact that she was very proud of.

Mother was an excellent cook, seamstress and housekeeper. She was a Hair Dresser by trade, which served her and the neighborhood well during the hungry years. I can well remember during our childhood in Vegreville when she took on the task of caring for the hair of some of our schoolmates, as well as my sister and I. One time a school chum, while getting her hair trimmed, had the misfortune to be inadvertently snipped on the ear lobe by Mother's flying scissors. This led to howls of anguish and



By R. Fairbairn Sr. house. Left to right: Opal Fairbairn, Tom Fairbairn, Nettie Fairbairn (Bob's wife), Bob Fairbairn, about 1915.



In granddad's car — back seat (l. to r.): Unknown, Ella (Fairbairn) Kirkwood, Louise Fairbairn, child is Opal. Front seat — Grandpa and grandma Fairbairn. About 1920.



Old Posier house in background. Left to right — J. J. Hewer, Louise Hewer, Louise Fairbairn, Iola Fairbairn, Opal Fairbairn. About 1925.

indignation, which reached well beyond the confines of our home. Leora Richardson required a great deal of sympathy from both Mother and us girls to assure that her anatomy was still intact.

Dad worked in the Flour Mill in Vegreville too, and later worked in Westock and then on to Fairview, where he obtained the position as a miller working for the late Walter Hemstock. The railroad had just arrived in Fairview four years before our arrival so it was a new job in a new town in the Peace River Country.

Opal and I had received our primary and secondary education in Vegreville, with the exception of a year and a half that I attended Victoria High School in Edmonton.

Many things seemed to happen to our small family in this northern town. In 1934 we lost our Mother, after a long and painful illness. She passed away at the early age of 43.

My sister and I stayed in Fairview for about two years after Mother passed away; we then returned to Vegreville. I worked for Mr. McClure for a number of years before I got married. Opal had met a Fairview boy of a pioneer family, Harold Nicholson, whom she married in January of 1937; they spent approximately eight years on the lower B.C. mainland and the Yukon finally returning to Fairview with their only child, Karen Iola. Harold eventually ended up in partnership with his brother and brother-in-law in a lumbering business and farm operation. Opal was for some time Secretary Treas. and eventually administrator of the Fairview Hospital. We were saddened by her death in 1976.

My father stayed on in Fairview for a short period of time; he then moved into Edmonton, where he worked for a few years. He died in Edmonton in 1952.

I married Sterling Chappell, a local Vegreville boy in 1939. For a number of years we lived in

Edmonton where Sterling worked for Swift Canadian Co. and studied for his Electrician's Papers. In 1952 we purchased a farm in the Chedderville district where we farmed for eight years. We then moved to Rocky Mtn. House where Sterling concentrated on his electrical trade.

He worked on many of the harder projects around the province, including oil refineries, spent a few months at Pine Point and his last job was at Mica Dam, where he worked as electrician for eight years.

While Sterling was away on these various jobs I occupied myself at home, raising our only son William Brian, who was born in Edmonton on March 9, 1949. Later on I clerked in two of the local stores and ended up doing the books for Mr. Cony for a number of years.

Now Sterling and I have both retired, in "Rocky" where we will no doubt, spend our remaining years.

Brian works for a world-wide oil servicing company, which has given him the opportunity to see many far reaches of the world including the Far East. He now works out of Singapore, where he resides with his wife, Virginia and our grandson, Ryan.

A story of our branch of the Fairbairn family would not be complete without the mention of a dear and lifetime friend from Vegreville, who passed away recently. Mary Black stayed with us for many years and became a very close family friend. Many Vegreville Old Timers will remember Mary Black as an angel of mercy as she went about her work in the district serving the area faithfully for a number of years as the Public Health Nurse.

Fane Family

by Major and Mrs. F. J. W. Fane

Major Frank William Walter Fane was born in Canterbury Kent, England, 9th of November, 1864. He came to Canada in 1879 at the age of 16, in mid-summer. He came to Toronto and stayed with his aunt, Mrs. Lemmon, and worked in the bush that following winter. He joined the North West Mounted Police in 1880 and went west. He was stationed in Lethbridge under the command of Major Sam Steele. He then was sent to Fort McLeod, Golden and Fort Steele and later promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and served through the 1885 Riel Rebellion in the North-West Territories.

He also homesteaded the SE ¼ of Section 28, Township 52, Range 17, West of the 4th and when his term in the N.W.M.P. was up, he settled on the farm and built a large home which is still sitting in the same location at Beaver Lake.

In 1890 he married Miss Margaret Duff of Lethbridge, who was the first lady school teacher and



Historical visit to Vegreville, parade through Main Street, 1962. Left to right: Mr. John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada (standing); Mr. Frank J. W. Fane, Member of Parliament; Mrs. Fane; and Mrs. Diefenbaker.

second teacher in that town. She was trained in her native Scotland and came to Lethbridge with her parents in 1885. Frank and Margaret Fane did not live in Lethbridge after they were married. Margaret Fane, being very brave and daring, drove two black spirited horses and a democrat while Frank drove a team of (4) four horses and a wagon to Beaver Lake farm.

Frank William Walter Fane was the Police Magistrate in Beaver Lake district and Postmaster. In 1905, in the first Provincial Election, in the then new Province of Alberta, he ran as a Conservative candidate in what was the Victoria riding and was defeated. In 1906, he contested the by-election of the same riding as the elected M.L.A., Mr. Mathew McCauley, was appointed to be in charge of the penitentiary in Edmonton, but was again defeated.

Margaret Fane stayed home on the farm and kept the home fires burning. She busied herself as President of the Anglican Women's Association and President of the Red Cross. She was also an Honorary Regent of the Major Fane Chapter of Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.), and died on the 3rd of February in 1942.

Frank and Margaret Fane had four children, Janet Margaret, Frances Helen, Frank John William and Beatrice Maude.

Janet Margaret went to school at Beaver Lake and St. Hilda's College in Calgary and became a legal stenographer. She worked in the law office of F. A. Morrison in Vegreville and in 1915 she married Reverend Gerald McComas and had one son, Frank Archibald.

Frances Helen died at the age of five years.

Frank John William attended school at Beaver



Mr. John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, speaking at Vegreville Recreation Centre, 1962.



Major and Mrs. Frank J. W. Fane, with son Frank, 7 years old, and daughter Elizabeth, 5 years old, 1950's.

Lake, Ukraina and the Vegreville High School. He went to Camrose Normal School and graduated as a first class teacher in 1915.

Beatrice Maude attended Beaver Lake School and Vegreville High School and later trained as a nurse in the University Hospital in Edmonton. She took special training in obstetrics in Chicago and worked as Head Nurse in the University Hospital in Edmonton. In 1953 she married Archdeacon C.F.A. Clough.

Frank William Walter Fane farmed and was a farm and homestead inspector. In 1911 he joined the militia as a Major in charge of C. Squadron of the 19th Alberta Dragoons. When the 1914 War broke out, he enlisted in active service and recruited C.

Squadron of the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles and took the horses and men overseas. He was seriously wounded on the first of December, 1915, and was hospitalized in England and then sent home to Canada. He recovered sufficiently to organize the Veterans' Land Act in 1918 in the four western provinces and also the Canadian Pension Commission in 1919. He was in charge of the Canadian Pension Commission for about one year. He died on the 3rd of July in 1922.

Major Frank William Walter Fane War Medals

Riel Rebellion War Medal

1914-15 Star Medal

War Medal of 1914-18 War

Victory Medal of 1914-18

Frank John William Fane, son of the late F.W.W. Fane, was born on the 23rd of February in 1897 at Beaver Lake in the part of the North-West Territories that is now Alberta. In 1914, after finishing high school, he got a permit to teach school and taught at Boian Marea and Whitford. He then went to Camrose and got his First Class Certificate as a teacher and taught Greenock School in Heisler, Alberta.

In January of 1916 he enlisted in the 194th Battalion and in April he was promoted to Lieutenant. In the fall of the same year he went to war overseas with the 194th Battalion and from there to the 10th Battalion in France. In 1917 he was seriously wounded and was hospitalized at Netley Abbey in England. In



Boy Scouts in Camp near Vegreville, 1911. The photo includes: Front row, (l. to r.) — Frank Weldon, Clarence Force, Willis Tierney, Andy Stewart, Glenn Trump, Bert Cunningham, A. W. (Buster) Shaw, Fred Mitchell, Leo Tierney, Dick Bord. Second row (l. to r.) — (unknown), Roy Davis, (with hat), Earl Stewart, Clarence Rodgers, Marshall Holden. Third row (l. to r.) — W. Nikiforuk, Herb Shaw (kneeling), Frank Fane (standing with stick), Bill Thompson, Bill Cunningham, Rev. R. A. Burge (Scoutmaster).

1917 he received his Military Cross from King George V for his bravery in action in the Battle of Hill 70.

Due to his injuries he was sent home to Edmonton, Alberta. In January of 1918 he was summoned to command a company of seven hundred (700) draftees in Calgary and in June of 1918 he was placed in command of the 69th draft of fifteen hundred (1500) men and took them overseas. Due to his previous injuries he was not able to go into active war and returned to Canada again.

On his return to Canada he was given a position as a Paymaster of Post Discharge Pay in Calgary with the rank of Captain. Due to his injuries of 1917 he had to undergo another serious operation which was done in the Calgary General Hospital by Col. F. H. Mewburn. After ten months in the hospital he came home to convalesce. After recovering he went to the University of Alberta to study medicine. His father died in 1922 and so he had to leave his studies and come home to farm and look after his mother.

Farming was well on the way and hired help was easy to get in those days so there were always at least two men. Frank J. W. did not put all his time into farming as he was still active in the militia.

In 1930 he was promoted to the rank of Major in charge of C. Squadron, 19th Alberta Dragoons. He was also active in the local Municipal Council and Chairman of the Board in the District of Ukraina School and Secretary of the Seed Cleaning Plant at Mundare.

In 1939 he was in command of B. Company, C.A.B.T.C., Number 131 in Camrose. He was discharged from C.A.B.T.C. in 1940 due to ill health, but retained his rank of Major. He was still in the militia till 1949, and during the winters from 1945 to 1947 he trained men in Wainwright. He was in charge of a company in the 49th Battalion and trained men in Winterburn. In 1947 he was awarded the Efficiency Decoration for 20 years of continuous service in the Army.

Major Frank John William Fane War Medals

Military Cross

War Medal 1914-18 War

Victory Medal 1914-18 War

War Medal 1939-42 War

King George's Coronation Medal

Canada Medal

Efficiency Decoration Medal

In 1949 he married Miss Amelia Engel of Beaver Lake. They have two children, Frank William Joseph and Elizabeth Anne Margaret. Frank William Joseph Fane was married in 1974 and has a family of



Major F. W. W. Fane and Mrs. Fane, parents of Major F. J. W. Fane, 1915.

two children, Frank John Joseph and Andrea Elizabeth and they live in the Bremner area. Elizabeth Anne Margaret got married in 1947 and she and her husband, Leigh Goldie, taught in Grande Prairie Regional College. Amelia Fane played a big part in helping Frank J. W. in campaigning during the election of '57-'58-'62-'64-'65. She was a member of the Major Fane Chapter of the I.O.D.E. and was secretary and regent for several years. She belongs to Lord Strathcona Chapter I.O.D.E. and also belongs to Rebeka Princess 82 of Fort Saskatchewan and went through the chairs and was Noble Grand.

In 1957 Major F. J. W. Fane ran as a Conservative candidate for the federal riding of Vegreville and lost. In 1958 he ran again and was elected as the first Conservative Member of Parliament for the riding of Vegreville. In the 1965 election he had the highest percentage majority in Canada. In the 1969 election he did not run again due to age and poor health and moved from Vegreville to their present home in Bremner.

13 M. D. L 2 F 27.
H. Q. 332-106-377.

To. Lt F. J. W. Fane,
10805-80th Ave.
Edmonton, S.

Lieut Frank John William Fane.
10th Battalion.
10805 80th Ave. Edmonton.

Sir,

I beg to advise you that you have been selected for an appointment with the Alberta Depot Battalion. Will you please advise me at as earlier date as possible whether you are in condition to take up this position, and if not how soon you consider that you would be sufficiently covered. You should without delay appear before a Medical Board as directed by the A.D.M.S. M.D. 13. on the 19th inst.

G. MacDonald
Colonel
Commanding Military District No 13.

Lieutenant Frank J. W. Fane's appointment, 1917.

Farrell, Thomas and Anna by Mary (Farrell) Cumming

Thomas Farrell was born in Pakenham, Renfrew County, Ontario, in 1875, and came west with the J. J. Stantons and others in 1901. He homesteaded south-east of the present town of Vegreville until the town was established in 1905, when he moved there.

On August 7th, 1911, he married Anna Buk. Anna was born in Medyka, Austria in 1891 and came to Canada with her parents when she was seven years old.

For many years Tommy Farrell, as he was known to everyone, operated a draying business in Vegreville, and even after he had retired, the business was carried on for a time by his son Matt.

Tommy was very proud of his matched team of greys and spent much time in their grooming.

An episode vividly brought to mind of the early days was the race of the teamsters at the sound of the fire bell to see who could be hooked up to the fire equipment first and get it to the fire, as this paid the enormous sum of five dollars.

Tommy served for some time as a trustee on the St. Martin's School Board.

Tommy and Anna had seven children. Thomas Patrick, the eldest, died at the age of eighteen months. The rest were raised in Vegreville during the troubled times of the 1914-1918 war, the influenza epidemic and the depression. During the influenza epidemic, Tommy worked long hours, as his dray had to go into service as an ambulance and a hearse



Thomas Farrell family. Back row, (l. to r.) — Mary, Matt, Margaret, Ella. Front row, (l. to r.) — Joe, Thomas and Anna Farrell, Rose. About 1935.

due to the regular services being overburdened. In the house was the everlasting smell of the boiling pot of creolin for disinfecting the mask you had worn over your mouth while outdoors, not to forget the ball of camphor worn as a necklace.

The children all obtained their education at St. Martin's School.

Mary went on to graduate in nursing from the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. She married Robert Cumming and they now live in retirement at Evansburg, Alberta. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

Matthew, after leaving Vegreville, worked for some time in the coppermines at Hedley, B.C., later moving to Campbell River, B.C. where he has been with Crown Zellerbach for many years. He also served in the armed forces. He married Edith Smith of Vegreville. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Margaret married James Rennie of Vegreville and after army life, lived for a time in Stettler and Red Deer before moving to Courtenay, B.C. some twenty years ago, and are now in retirement there. They have two children and seven grandchildren.



Thomas Farrell back yard. Note the double outhouse, 1935.



Anna Farrell. The two houses are on the north side of the now Hwy. 16 and directly north of Farrell house. Kostash shack in background, 1920's.



Tommy Farrell and team in mid-20's.

Elizabeth (Ella) married Edward Lloyd and they have lived continuously in Edmonton. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Rose joined the armed forces and, while stationed at Suffield Base in Alberta, married Tim Kottmeier, formerly of Edmonton, and they resided for many years at Ralston, Alberta. She is now widowed and lives at Medicine Hat. She has six children and three grandchildren.

Joseph, who started with Black Motors in Vegreville, went on to Healy Motors in Edmonton and has resided in Edmonton for many years. He married Joyce Renschler of Castor, Alberta. They have three children and one grandchild. This latter baby is a unique link between two old pioneer Vegreville families — Farrells and Stantons — as her mother is a granddaughter of Thos. Farrell, and her father, Douglas Ross, is a grandson of James Stanton.

Thomas and Anna passed away in 1944 and 1961 respectively, both being in their seventieth year, and are laid to rest next to their son in the Vegreville Riverside Cemetery.

Fedechko, Joe and Jean by Jean Fedechko

Joe Fedechko was born at Mundare, Alberta, on April 18, 1911. He was the son of Tom and Anna (nee Faryna) Fedechko. At approximately 1903 Tom and Anna emigrated to Canada from Western Ukraine. They settled on SW32-52-16 W4 and lived there until they retired in 1936. Times were difficult because money was scarce, land had to be cleared and broken, and the growing family had to be looked after.

Tom and Anna Fedechko raised eight children.

Paul is married and the couple has five children.

Alec married Ann Cymbaluk and they have one son.

Lena married Nick Ewasiuk; they were blessed with five children.

Steve married Jessie Kozoway and to their union were born six children.

Harry married Ann Kozoway; the couple has five children.

Joe married Jean Daciuk. They had four children, three of whom are living.

Pauline married Bill Cymbaluk and to their union were born two daughters.

Peter married Annie Yaremchuk and the couple has seven children.

Joe Fedechko, fifth son in the family, had a varied career. At fourteen he left home with his brother Paul, and went to the U.S.A. where he worked on different farms. Being very lonely, so far away from home, he saved every penny so as to have enough for his fare home for Christmas. As Christmas approached, he was still short of the required amount, so he decided to try gambling to get enough money for the trip. However, the decision proved disastrous. He lost all the money he had saved. At that time he vowed that never again will he gamble, trying to get the money the easy way. A big lesson for him and others!

Within four years he was back at Mundare, his home. Most of his next ten years were spent on the farm, working his father's land and helping the neighbors.



Joe and Jean Fedechko family, about 1961. Back row (l. to r.) — Leslie, Raymond, Jim. Front row (l. to r.) — Jean (mother), Patricia, Joe (father).

On October 16, 1937, he married Jean, daughter of Hnat and Anna (Sharun) Daciuk. The young couple spent the next two years working on the home farm, since Joe's parents had retired at that time.

Joe and Jean were blessed with four children.

Leslie, presently associated with Nuclear Chicago, was born in 1939. He married Shirley Shultz. They live in Edmonton and have two daughters: Leeann who is a hairdresser and Cindy who is completing high school.

Jim, born in 1943, married Sylvia Sepos. Both are jewellers in Calgary. They have two daughters: Sandra in grade eleven and Tammy in grade nine.

Raymond, born in 1951, passed away at the age of eleven.

Patricia, born in 1952, married Brian Agle. They have one daughter, Raelan. Patricia is a secretary and her husband a chemical engineer, both living in Edmonton.

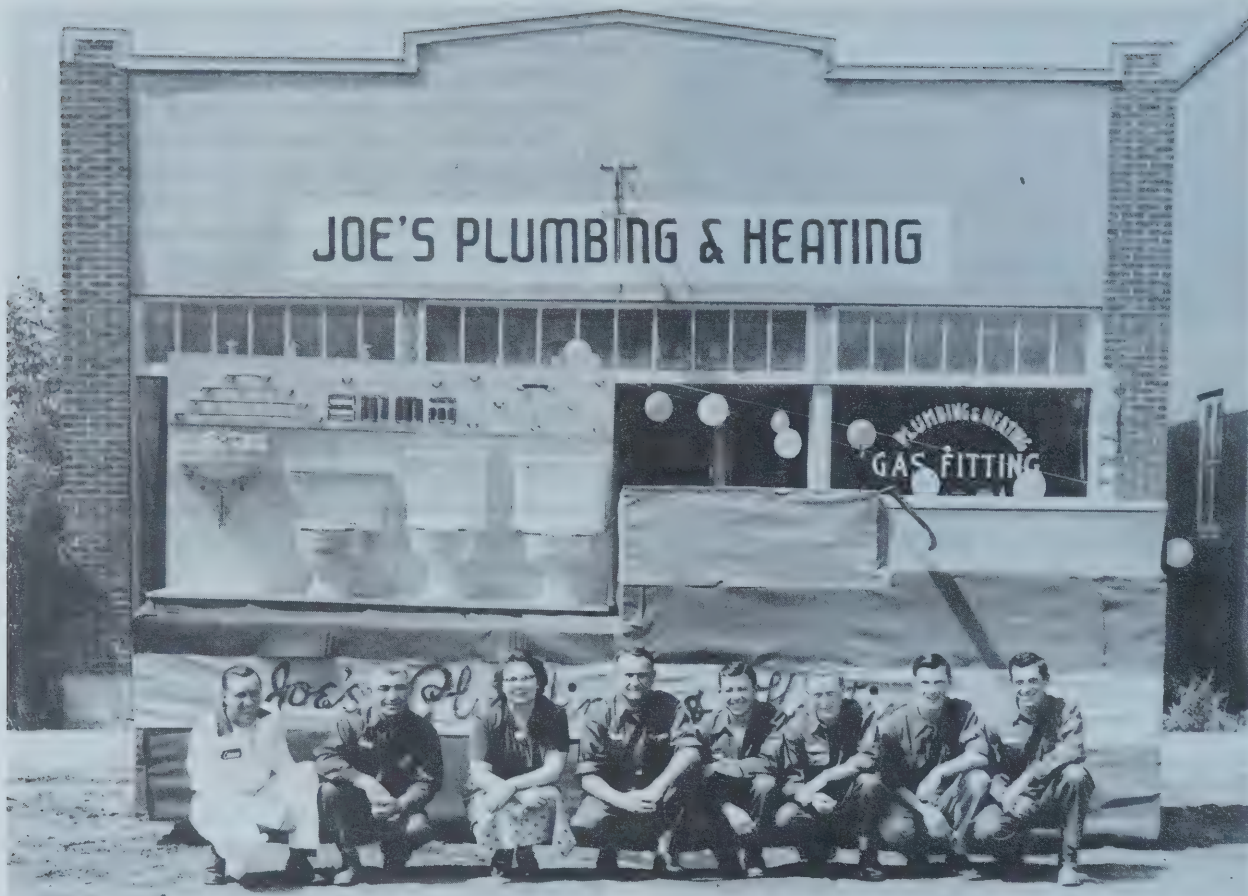
In 1939 Joe moved to Mundare where he operated a chop and feed mill. Shortly after the operation commenced the mill burned down. With the kindness and generosity of neighbours, he built a new and better chop mill, mostly with volunteer labor. Business improved and Joe carried on in this line for six years.

In 1945 Joe decided to make the move to Vegreville where he purchased Spies' Plumbing and Tinsmithing Shop. The new business called Joe's Plumbing and Heating was instrumental in providing a worthwhile service in many homes and institutions, including schools in Vegreville and the surrounding area, even as far as St. Paul.

In 1960 the plumbing and heating business was sold to his business partners. Joe's Sporting Goods Store was Joe's next business venture, which he oper-



Hnat and Annie Daciuk family, 1951. Back row (l. to r.) — Pearl Bilyk (daughter), Paul Bilyk (Pearl's husband), Jean Fedechko (daughter), Joe Fedechko (Jean's husband), Agnes Wolinski (daughter), Bill Wolinski (Agnes' husband). Front row (l. to r.) — Hnat Daciuk (father), Anna Daciuk (mother), John Daciuk (son).



Joe's Plumbing and Heating — float — during Vegreville Exhibition, 1953. (l. to r.) — Terry Soldan, John Farion, Olga Czar, Joe Fedechko (owner), Eugene Bartman, Lloyd Bauer, Mike Semotiuk, Sandy Eliuk.

ated for four years (1960-63). The building was designed and constructed by the owner himself. He also built another building, the present Savings and Credit Union.

Retirement for Joe did not mean slackening. From 1967 he was still very busy doing what he very much enjoyed, e.g. gunsmithing, hunting, fishing, and just plain socializing. Just as things were “looking up”, he died in March, 1972 after a lengthy illness.

Jean lives in Vegreville. At one time she was very busy with the Ladies of St. Anne, a group connected with Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church. She was president and held other offices in the organization. Now she spends a lot of time visiting and helping her children and grandchildren. Jean's parents came from Western Ukraine around 1900. They farmed northeast of Mundare until 1940. They farmed in the Ryan district for about six years, retiring to Vegreville in 1946. Hnat Daciuk, Jean's father, passed away in 1960, and Anna, Jean's mother, in 1976.

Fedoruk, Filimon and Maricia by Mary (Arthur) Werezuk

Filimon and Maricia's homeland was the Ukraine. They resided near Chernivitsi and in 1902 came to Canada with their three small children, Trifon who was five years old, Frozena was three and George was an infant.

Theirs was a humble beginning. Filimon, his brother Kost and his family, and two other families named Vygera and Choban, arrived by rail at Strathcona (South Edmonton). They constructed a large raft and drifted downstream to Duvernay. From there these four families travelled by horse and wagon loaned by an established farmer, to the Shepenitz area north of Vegreville where each was to take up a homestead. Filimon's was Section 2-55-13. Grandmother used to tell the story of remembering an early summer rain that dampened everyone's enthusiasm on that first trek to the homestead. She was crying and bemoaning aloud why she ever left her dear family and beloved homeland . . . Grandpa in good humor replied, “Woman, stop your crying . . . we

sure don't need any more moisture around here," as he and the other men tried to find shelter for them by tying together branches in a grove of trees.

Uncle Trifon, although only five, still has some recollection of that raft ride from Strathcona . . . of sleeping under a crude lean-to and hearing a prairie coyote for the first time . . . of watching his parents scratch out a dugout and laboriously build their first home in Canada . . . the dugout that was to serve as their home for the next six years. My mother, Domca (Dora), was their first Canadian born in that home. She was born October 14, 1904.

Grandfather was a carpenter by trade, a great craftsman and very mechanically inclined. He owned some tools: a saw, an axe, a wood chisel and a hammer. That was a lot in those days. Sometimes he earned as much as \$1.90 for a 14 to 18-hour day at carpentry work. That was considered as "high priced help." Those were the days of labor when they worked under unbelievable living conditions. However, they soon prospered because they were thrifty and resourceful. Grandfather built grandmother a loom and spinning wheel and she wove her own blankets. In later years she wove beautiful wall murals from her homespun yarns which she dyed in bright gay colors. These are now very treasured heirlooms by her grandchildren.

Sunflower, hemp and poppy seeds were some of the seeds that were brought with them from the Ukraine to be planted in the spring of 1903, and were successfully harvested in the fall. When enough seeds were collected it was then desired to have some vegetable oil manufactured from them. This was not possible because there was no oil-extracting plant nearby. So, undaunted, grandpa built his own oil-extracting press on his farm. Word of the press got around the vicinity and he soon was established in a vegetable oil manufacturing business in the district. Some parts of that press still remain to be seen on its original site.

As the years passed, more children were born to this union. Three daughters and a son: Urisha, Victoria, Jenny and Dave. Urisha passed away at the age of ten from a severe case of mumps and Victoria also at the age of ten after a lengthy illness.

As was the custom of the day, Frozena, Dora and Jenny learned to spin, weave, sew garments and do household tasks, and married at an early age. Trifon, George and Dave followed in their father's footsteps and took up careers as carpenters and mechanics. Their ability to learn quickly helped them to acquire trades in these areas.

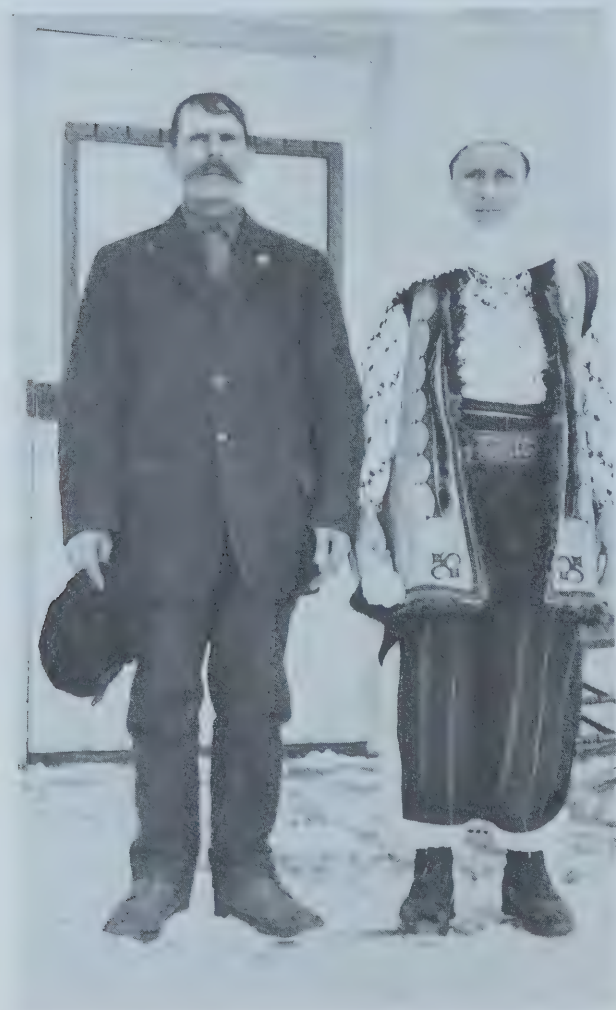
In 1918 Trifon married Senafta Werenka who passed away six years later, leaving two sons,



Filimon and Maricia Fedoruk's family, 1918.



Threshing outfit on Filimon Fedoruk's farm, about 1920.



Filimon and Maricia Fedoruk, early 1900's.



Trifon Fedoruk and Stephana Verenka, on wedding day, 1918.



Maricia Fedoruk with her two youngest daughters — Dora (Werezuk) and Jennie (Diachuk). About 1915.

William of Calgary and Mike of Edmonton and a daughter Elsie (1922-1928). Trifon then married Mary Karpowich in 1925 and moved from Shepenitz to Vegreville. From this union came another son Ernest of Victoria, B.C., and daughter Lola (Blumer) of Edmonton. Trifon worked as a mechanic in Vegreville and was the projectionist for Kieryluk's theatre for a number of years. Later on he operated a theatre which was upstairs in the old Legion Hall, as well as one of the earlier photograph studios which was known as Fedoruk's Photo Studio.

Trifon's interest in photography began during the First World War. The greatest single item in his



Trifon made his own convertible in 1920. The top came off for the summertime.



International threshing outfit — one unit! Filimon Fedoruk's farm, 1918.

personal estate was a yearling calf, but he sold it in order to buy his first camera. Today he has cameras of every description, size, age and make, including sound projectors and cameras "made by Trifon." He has cast and machined most parts of his homemade cameras, except lenses and the odd piece of electronic equipment.

Uncle Trifon may best be remembered as the photographic pioneer of Northeastern Alberta. He was one of the province's first accredited projectionists and has recorded with stills and movies much



Mrs. Trifon Fedoruk in motorcyclist and carriage, 1921.



Trifon Fedoruk's homemade snowmobile, 1927.



Trifon Fedoruk's tractor with a broken axle. He improvised and fixed it in the field, 1919.

of the history of Northeastern Alberta for the past 55 years. Though he officially retired in 1962, he continues to hold provincial and municipal licenses that still allow him to work as a projectionist, machinist, photographer, electrician, gas and electric welder and mechanic. Trifon was surely a self-made man as he had a meagre education of only two or three years of elementary schooling.

Aunt Mary and Uncle Trifon celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary in 1979. They have 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Frozena married Nick Kereliuk in 1916. They farmed in the Shepenitz district until 1936 when they moved to Vernon, B.C. and have lived there ever since. They had a family of nine children. An infant son Sylvester passed away at the age of two. The other eight are four daughters and four sons. Three daughters live in Edmonton, Martha and Marian (Ursulak) and Terry (Horb); Rae (Donati) lives in Kelowna. Pete the eldest son is at Peachland, B.C. and the other three, Manoly, Silver, and Donald, are in Vancouver.

Frozena and Nick raised an extremely artistic and musically talented family. They have all performed in countless concerts in various provinces excelling in drama, dancing, singing and playing in orchestras. Rae is a well-known opera singer who has performed in Vancouver theatres and in other cities.

Nick and Frozena had celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary July 17, 1971. Nick passed away September 19, 1971. At present Frozena has 30 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

George was born in 1902 and was very much like his brother Trifon, a Jack-of-all-trades. He married Alice Koshtura from Glendon in 1926. For the first three years of their marriage they lived in Two Hills where George served as the sheriff's bailiff. They moved to Vegreville in 1929 where George was employed at the Thomas Garage as a mechanic. During their stay in Vegreville until 1940 he operated Singer Sewing Machines Sales and Service Shop as well as the Renfrew agency franchise in the area. From 1940 to 1960 he served with the R.C.M.P. detachment in Edmonton. From 1961 to 1964 he was posted at Peace River until his retirement that year. In 1966 they moved to Vancouver so they could be near their eldest daughter, Rose Vollet, and her husband Roy, and three children. George set up a Second-Hand Shop while they lived in Vancouver. They then moved to reside in Vernon and have lived there ever since. He told me he still runs his Sewing Machine Repair Shop in conjunction with his Second-Hand store but he also admitted that he has an inconspicuous "For Sale" sign on the door. Alice

thinks George should sell the business and really retire!

George and Alice raised two daughters and a son: Rose (Vollet, 1927-1972); Irene Desroisiers (Maroney) of Red Deer and Orest of Edmonton.

Tragedy struck in 1972 when Rose disappeared while out on a Christmas shopping trip downtown in Vancouver. Her slain body was discovered ending a four-day international search and two youths were apprehended and charged with non-capital murder. The family mourn her tragic, untimely death. George and Alice celebrated their 53rd wedding Anniversary in 1979. They have nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Domca (Dora, my mother) married Samuel Werezuk in 1921. They have farmed five miles N.E. of Vegreville in the Brush Hill district ever since their marriage. They raised eight children and have celebrated their 58th Wedding Anniversary this summer. The Werezuk family history has been written in detail elsewhere in this book so I shall not repeat it.

Jenny married Pete Diachuk in 1928. They lived at Two Hills for several years where Pete was employed as a mechanic. For many years Pete worked at the Thomas Garage in Vegreville after moving with his family to reside there. Later on he went into business with some of his brothers in Vegreville. That business was known as The Diachuk Con-

struction Co. When Pete sold out his interest in it, he and Jenny moved to Hinton where he set up his own business in heavy-duty equipment, building roads, digging basements, etc. They also owned a motel and Drive-In Restaurant in Hinton. When they sold these establishments in 1976 they retired and moved to live in Vernon, B.C.

They have two daughters and a son: Tillie (Fedorak) of Edmonton, Irene (Tkachuk) of Hinton, Edward of Edmonton. They have six grandchildren. Pete and Jenny celebrated their 51st Wedding Anniversary in 1979.

Dave, the youngest son who was born in 1913, stayed at home to farm with his father. He married Rose Olinek of Two Hills in 1936. Dave and Rose continued to farm with the folks until grandfather decided to sell the homestead and retire, in 1940. Dave and Rose went to reside in Two Hills where Dave worked as a mechanic for the Cockshutt dealer for a number of years. The next 18 years he was employed by the County of Two Hills, working as a heavy-duty operator on the road-graders. He and his family moved to work in Edmonton, he as a janitor in the Edmonton City Hall and Rose as a hairdresser.

Rose and Dave are now retired in Edmonton. They celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary in 1976 with their lovely large family of thirteen children and a host of relatives and friends.



A family gathering at the Filimon Fedoruk farm, 1926. Back row (l. to r.) — Mr. Zychikowski and son John, Filimon Fedoruk, Nick Kereluke, unknown, Trifon Fedoruk, unknown, George Fedoruk, Sam Werezuk. Front row (l. to r.) — Metro Zychikowski, Mrs. Zychikowski, Maricia Fedoruk, Frozena Kereluke with children Martha and Pete, Bill and Mike Fedoruk, Mary Fedoruk and Elsie, Alice Fedoruk and Rose, Dora Werezuk with Mary, Anne, and Victoria.

They have eight sons and five daughters. The sons all reside in Edmonton as well as two daughters, Alice and Rose-Marie (Tootie) Gully. I shall list their names in order of their birth: Donald, Jim, Marilyn (Nucci) of St. Catharines, Ont., George, Gloria (Hetland) of Calgary, Michael, Bill, Rose-Marie (Gully), Jerrold, Darlene (Currie) of Sylvan Lake, Alice (Kashman), Ronald and Steve.

Uncle Dave and Aunt Rose have 24 grandchildren.

Now I shall get back to my grandparents. They lived in Vernon for a few years and then retired to live in Vegreville from 1944 to 1959. They were married for 52 years until grandmother's death January 23, 1947. Filimon's birth was Nov. 23, 1870, and he passed away May 5, 1959.

It is interesting to note that perhaps Maricia's and Filimon's six children may have set some sort of record. All of them except for the youngest in the family have celebrated Anniversaries of 50 years or more of marriage and among them they have 47 children, 113 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild! It is no doubt that the Filimon Fedoruk family tree has spread its branches far and wide across Canada.

I would like to mention that Filimon's brothers all came to Canada. Their names were Kost, Driпти (Dave) and George. He also had two sisters named Mrs. Zychikowski and Mrs. Bartnorowski. They remained in the Ukraine but their sons came to live in Vegreville. John and Metro are bachelors and are well-known in Vegreville. Philip Bartnorowski also lived in Vegreville until his death.

Filimon's brother George had two sons, Eli and Pete. Eli married Vera Svarich, a well-known Vegreville girl and Pete married Nellie Kisilewich. Pete bought his cousin Trifon's Photo Studio business and operated the successful Fedoruk's Photo Studio until his retirement in 1970.

In closing I would like to note that as I have collected this information, I am impressed with the stamina and stability that the early pioneers possessed. They were indeed a special kind of people and I am proud of my heritage.

Ferguson, George and Jennette

by Jennette Ferguson

George Ferguson and Jennette Ziegler were married on November 10, 1939, in the home of Henry and Aggie Ziegler.

During our early married years we lived with Mom and Pop and worked for our parents, George working with his dad, Fred, during the summer and fall. We made our first home at the Burns Gorsline farm, two miles south of the Ryan school in April,

1941. In October, 1943, we bought and moved to the Wagner farm, one mile north. We now owned a half-section of land. Our next move was in June, 1949, to our present home — the Sherman Davis farm, next to the Park Grove School.

Our family of eleven were all born in the old St. Joseph's hospital in Vegreville. While our family was growing up we had experiences like any other family — little tongues stuck to iron gates while attempting to lick the frost off, six in bed at once with the mumps, a trip upstairs with six glasses of juice or whatever, a few broken bones from falling off horses or from motorcycle mishaps, playing in the barn loft, doing trapeze stunts into piles of straw, making houses and tunnels in the bale stacks and teaching calves to lead for 4-H. Numerous trips were made to town for basketball, volleyball, hockey, softball, gymnastics, track and field, 4-H meetings, Sunday School and choir practice.

Wesley, born in 1941, took grade one at Ryan School, grades 2 and 3 at Park Grove and his remaining grades in Vegreville. In September of 1963 Wesley married Elaine Gratton of Vegreville. They now live in the Park Grove District, where Wesley farms and operates Wes-Bar Trucking. Elaine works for Alberta Government Telephones. Their children are Shayne — born 1964, Lannette 1965, Jason 1969 and Lorne 1974.

Brian, born in 1942, took grades 1 and 2 at Park Grove and the remaining grades in Vegreville. Brian married Joan Davies of Minburn in July of 1970. They live in the Park Grove district where he farms and works for the Seed Cleaning Plant in Vegreville. They have two girls, Carrie born 1974 and Corinna 1975.

Lawrence, born July 1944, took grade 1 at Park Grove and the rest of his grades in Vegreville. He attended S.A.I.T. for two years and the U. of A. for four years, graduating in 1972 with a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. Lawrence married Julie Thomas of Calgary in June, 1971. For five years they lived in Edson while Lawrence worked for the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Company. In October 1978 the family moved to Houston, Texas, and if all goes well, will go to Australia in 1979. They have three children, Scott — born in 1972, Sara 1976 and Robbie 1978.

Georgina, born February, 1946, took all her schooling in Vegreville. She then completed two years of Education at the U. of A. and taught for two years at Mannville. Georgina then returned to the U. of A. for an additional two years to complete her B. Ed. in 1970. She then returned to teaching for another two and a half years in Vegreville. In July of 1967 Georgina and David Baron were married. David

graduated from the U. of A. in 1971 with a B.Ed. David is part owner of the Chatelaine Restaurant and owns and operates the Royale Bowling Alley in Vegreville. They have two children; Carmen born in 1974 and Troy in 1976. They are now living in their new house one mile south of our place.

Joyce, born in December 1947, took her schooling in Vegreville. She worked for Alberta Government Telephones for a few months and then returned to Vegreville to help her Uncle Berton Ziegler until fall. Joyce then attended the U. of A. and graduated with a B.Ed. in 1971. In June 1968, Joyce married E. T. (Stu) Tennant. Joyce began her teaching career at Brentwood Elementary School in Sherwood Park, and continued to teach until December 1975. Stu passed away in June, 1973. In December, 1975, Joyce married Bill Bryden of Mannville and they moved to Red Deer where Bill worked for Chevron Standard. Joyce and Bill are now residing in Vegreville and Bill is consulting for several companies. They have two daughters: Nicole born in 1976 and Courtney in 1977.

Norma, born in February 1951, took her schooling up to grade 10 in Vegreville. She then moved to Edmonton to further her endeavors in track and field and complete her grade 11 and 12 at Strathcona High School. After obtaining her B.Ed. in 1973 from the U. of A. she taught at Eastglen High School for two and a half years and is presently teaching at Strathcona High School. Norma married Ted Thresher of Edmonton in May 1978. They both worked for the Commonwealth Games in 1978. Ted is also a teacher and is presently instructing at Jasper Place High School.

Doreen, born in June 1953, completed all her schooling in Vegreville. She then moved to Edmonton to work for Alberta Government Telephones and is still employed there. Playing softball in the summer and basketball in the winter keeps her busy.

Murray, born in June 1955, also completed all his schooling in Vegreville. After his grade 12 year he went to N.A.I.T. for two years and took heavy-duty mechanics. Murray has worked in several fields related to mechanics and is presently working and living in Edmonton.

Clayton, born December 1956, took his schooling in Vegreville. He has worked at various construction and mechanic-related jobs. In February, 1975, Clayton married Theresa Semotiuk. They have two children: Jo-Lynn born 1974 and Terrence in 1977. Presently they are living in a house trailer in our yard and Clayton is farming and driving a semi-trailer truck for Wesley's trucking company.

Agnes, born in October 1958, finished grade 12 in Vegreville. She then lived at home for a year and worked at babysitting and as a cashier in the Co-op

Store. She then moved to Edmonton and worked for Executive Sport Publications Ltd.

Vance, born in April 1962, took grades 1 to 9 in Vegreville. He then moved to Edmonton to live with his sister and took grade 10 at Strathcona High School. After one year of "city life" Vance returned home and is taking his grade 11 in Vegreville. Vance has been in the 4-H Beef Club for several years and plays hockey every winter.

George's mother, Minnie, lived with us from November 1972 until November 1976. She then moved to the Vialta Lodge, a Senior Citizens Home in Viking, and is still residing there. On January 6, 1979, Grandma celebrated her 89th birthday.

Ferguson, Kenneth and Fannie by Kenneth and Daughters, Helen and Lila

I was born in Killarney, Manitoba, in the Turtle Mountain District, on the 10th of February, 1889, the fourth of the seven sons of George and Elizabeth (Keyes) Ferguson. When I was eight, we moved to North Dakota, about 60 miles. My sister remembers Grandmother Keyes, who was a tiny lady in a hoop skirt, bidding them farewell. She was almost blown away in a Manitoba wind. I remember the day we started; there was a blizzard and they made me get under the blankets with the little kids. I thought I should be up so I could get on the high side of the sleigh to keep it from upsetting in the snow drifts. We went to Uncle Dick Talbot's and stayed for the night. Uncle Dick's wife was my Mother's youngest sister, Maude. The next morning they had to shovel snow to get in the barn. The sun was shining and it was warm. Uncle Dick came with us with a load; that night we stopped in a cabin in the Turtle Mountains. Uncle Harry Keyes met us there and Uncle Dick went back home. The snow was melting fast; he wanted to get home before it was all gone. We got to our new home that day. Father had taken a homestead and bought another one-half section with a house on it. We lived there for some time until he built a house on the homestead. Our town was Bottineau.

I remember the first crop, it was stacked in the yard; we got a wind and rain, the tops blew off the stacks; and the chickens, turkeys and geese got in the stacks; they never did get the tops back on the stacks. When the threshing machine came they saw the stacks without any tops. They didn't think the straw would be any good to fire the engine. They had been having trouble with wet straw. They sent a team back to the last place they had threshed for a load of straw, but after the top few rows were off they said that was the driest straw they had all fall. Father sure knew how to build a stack that would stay dry.

We had dry years. Some years when it looked

like a good crop the rust would come and we just got chicken feed. So, in 1902, land started going up in price so we sold it. Then we stayed on and rented for the summer. I think that was the best crop we ever had.

The summer of 1903, Father went to Alberta to look for a homestead. He got one up in the bush about 30 miles west of Edmonton. I guess he thought that where the bush grew there was rain. But the bush was not much good, only for fire wood. The boys wished their Father had chosen land with less trees to cut. We had been raised on the prairie and to clear the bush with an axe was some job. We finally got 15 acres cleared and broke enough to prove up on the homestead. Some years we rented land out around Spruce Grove. While we were on the homestead we had a soccer football team and played at Stony Plain; they won. Then they came to our picnic. We should have won but the referee called one of our goals an off-side. So it ended in a tie game. We were going to Stony Plain later and some of them were saying they would beat us so bad we wouldn't be able to say anything. But we had a different idea and we won! After that we started playing baseball.

In 1913, we moved to Edmonton and I started driving street cars. While I was still on the spare list there was the official opening of the new High Level Bridge; I was chosen to drive the car taking the dignitaries across for the first time.

In 1916 I joined the army, 194th Battalion. We went to England that fall. In 1917, they wanted a battalion to build a railway, so I joined it, and went to France and built narrow gauge railway up close to the front. We built standard gauge tracks too. One time we put in a switch, the next morning we went out and the Germans had dropped a shell right in the middle of it. We were lucky we weren't there when it hit!



Left to right: Len and Mary Ferguson, Ken and Fannie Ferguson, Lila Ferguson (now Davidson), Ruth and Ralph Ferguson. About 1945.

While I was in France I had a leave and went to England and visited some families I had met while in camp at Perfleet.

In the spring of 1918 the Germans made a breakthrough and came right to where we were working. Some of our men went into a chalk pit. They came past it and those in there thought they were going to be in Germany for supper, but the British counter-attacked and drove them back. So they got out and got back to camp. We went to the front line that night and stayed until the next night when reinforcements came in and we moved out. That was the beginning of the end. That was their last attack. Our side soon attacked on the flanks of the advance and the drive towards Germany started. From then on the line moved fast. We would be up in front of the big guns one day. In a few days we would just hear them in the distance. Then on the 11th of November it was all over. We got back to England; camped in Wales for a



Ken and Fannie Ferguson — silver wedding, June, 1946.

while. I had a leave and went to Scotland and stayed in Aberdeen, the granite city.

Finally got back to Canada late in March. I had a sister living in Winnipeg. I sent a telegram telling her when I would get there. She met me at the station and I went home with her for a few days. Then I went back to the station when another troop train came through and got on; it was headed for Vancouver. There were some on it going to Edmonton and they asked us who wanted to go to Edmonton. They gave us tickets and we caught a train for Edmonton and home.

When I went for my discharge from the army, I had three or four days' pay stopped for being absent without leave, but I had more days absent than that so I was still ahead. They should have told us, before we put in the place we wanted our discharge. I thought I would get a stop off but they would not give us one. They said we should have put in for our discharge there, then we would have got a ticket home from there.

I returned to my job on the street cars in Edmonton, in 1919. During a visit to my brother Will, in Vegreville I met Fannie McCleery who lived with her brother Howard on the farm next to Will's. She thought a farm would be a good place to live so I quit the street car and through the Soldier Settlement Board, bought a farm ten miles from Vegreville next to the one brother Milo farmed. I wanted to borrow the money to break land but the S.S.B. didn't think it

would be good for me or them, but, it would have been better for both of us. My brothers Fred, Charley and Jim also lived near Vegreville.

In 1921, Fannie and I were married, and we farmed and raised four children. We were as liberated as any modern couple; I would bake bread and cook meals and she would help with the farm work whenever the need arose.

I was finally granted a loan to clear the bush off the land, but then it was 1928 before I got it all broke up. Then about 1929 prices went down. Wheat went to 19 cents a bushel, oats seven cents a bushel, pigs between two and three cents a pound. But we always had three meals a day. We raised our vegetables and meat and got wheat ground for flour. In 1939, when the second World War started, the prices went up.

In 1940 we moved to the Howard McCleery place and rented it. We bought it in 1946. Fannie died in 1960. I lived on the farm until 1977 when I moved to Edmonton and now live with my sister Effie Connelly. This summer 1979, I visited each of the children which included flying to Ontario. At 90 years of age I still go for a walk every day.

I had six brothers and two sisters:
Stephen, born April 3, 1881, in Ontario.
William, born March 1, 1884.
Fred, born January 6, 1886.
Charley, born October 10, 1890.
Milo, born September 25, 1891.
James, born April 15, 1893.
Effie, born May 24, 1895.
Olive, born May 8, 1914.

Fannie and I had four children, two girls and two boys, all of whom attended Vegreville High School.

Ralph, born March 31, 1922, is a graduate of U of A in Civil Engineering, and now lives in Mississauga, Ontario. He and his wife have a daughter and three sons, also two grandsons.

Helen, born February 13, 1924, is a registered nurse and lives in Derwent, Alberta. She and her husband, Peter Noster, have four children, all married and they have six grandchildren.

Lila, born March 27, 1926, trained as a teacher. She and her husband Don Davidson live at Alliance, Alberta with their five children.

Leonard, born March 27, 1926 (Lila's twin) and his wife Mary, are on the McCleery homestead. They have two children, Leslie and Valerie (Mrs. Dan Seniuk). Both are graduates of Vegreville High School. Valerie is also a Commerce Graduate of U of A.



Fannie Ferguson holding the twins, Leonard and Lila. Sitting — Ralph and Helen, 1926.

Aunt Fannie

by Lila J. Davidson

In seventeen young Miss McCleery

Was training to be a nurse,

In a hospital down in Ohio

When she heard Howard's wife was worse.

Howard, her brother in Alberta

With a wife in a hospital bed,

Needed someone to care for his daughters

And keep them all clean and well fed.

So she stopped in the midst of her training

Said farewell to her mother so dear.

When she came to the Vegreville station

The girls said, "Aunt Fannie is here."

Soon all their friends and neighbors

Knew Aunt Fannie well by that name

For she sang or recited at socials

When to Park Grove schoolhouse they came.

In nineteen, Will Ferguson's brother

Just back from Europe's sad war

Was with Will when he stopped to deliver

The mail at McCleery's back door.

Ken said, "You should introduce me

To the pretty young lady there."

Will said, "Oh that's just Aunt Fannie"

But Ken soon began to care.

When he asked his Fannie to wed him

She said, "The girls need me here

But they are getting older

Perhaps I'll wed you next year".

In June twenty-one they were married

On his S.S.B. farm settled down.

But still most folks called her Aunt Fannie.

Even in Vegreville town.

They raised four children and loved them

Through the thirties when times were depressed

With the garden they never went hungry

They learned home-made fun could be best.

Aunt Fannie for years played piano

For Park Grove church services till

Park Grove with the town church united

Then the choir she joined with good will.

She sang in the Vegreville choir

Till our Father in Heav'n called her home

Oh many had called her Aunt Fannie

I was blessed for I called her Mom.

Ferguson, Leonard and Mary

Leonard and Mary Ferguson were married on October 24, 1949 and built another house on the home farm. Mary was born on a farm at Alliance, Alberta. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Household Economics in 1946 and

in 1947 as a registered dietitian and has worked for St. Joseph's General Hospital for many years.

Leonard continued the farming operation purchasing the Demetro Nikiforuk land in 1964. Leonard has been very active in Co-op activities, helping to form the Vegreville Artificial Breeding Association, working on the provincial Artificial Association Board for many years and on the Co-op Store board. In 1971 he was elected to the resolution committee of F.C.L. and worked in that capacity for three years, the second year as vice-chairman, and the third year as chairman. In 1973 he took the position of F.C.L. Director which he has held now for five years. With the pressure of extra Co-op work he has gradually retired from farming with Deryk and Gregg Ziegler renting the land.

There are two children, Leslie born June 11, 1954 and Valerie born April 26, 1956.

After completing high school Leslie has worked at accounting for the Treasury Branches, Co-op Stores, and I.T.T. Grinnell as well as assisting with an undercoating business.

Valerie graduated from the University of Alberta in the spring of 1978 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and is now articling with MacGillvray and Co. for her chartered accountancy. During her school years she worked as a telephone operator for Alberta Government Telephones, as a Girl Friday and as a fashion model.

Valerie and Dan Seniuk were married in Banff June 24, 1978. They are living in Edmonton.

Ferguson, Milo and Marion

by Marion Ferguson

Milo came to Park Grove in 1917 from Bruce where he had farmed for two years and I, in 1918, from Junkins, now Wildwood, Alberta, where fresh from Vancouver Normal School, I taught during the summer. Milo settled on a half-section in Kolomea District and I had the good fortune to be living with Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Jennings for the next two years while teaching at Park Grove School.

We were married at my home in August, 1920 and remained around and in Vegreville until 1944 when we moved to Edmonton. Milo worked for Edmonton City Dairies, later Silverwood Dairies for seventeen years. We have lived in Edmonton ever since with the exception of six years, 1969-75 in Oliver, B.C. Although we enjoyed our stay in Oliver very much, we decided to move back to be closer to our family, who all live in Alberta. Frances and her husband, Harold Glanzer of Calgary have a son John still at home and attending University of Calgary. Daughters are Jean Widdifield and Lynn Eggertson. Margaret and Arthur Ziegler of Vegreville are alone.



Milo Ferguson and his mother and stepfather (Mr. and Mrs. Martin), and Ferguson children Margaret, Allan, and Frances, 1930.



Milo Ferguson with children — Frances and Margaret in the front seat of his car, and Ruth McClary, Marion Ferguson and Minnie Ferguson, 1924.

All four of their children are married — sons Gregg and Deryk, daughters Brenda Dobson and Noreen Schierman. Jean and Allan of Sylvan Lake and Red Deer (home and business, respectively) have three boys, Douglas, Brian and Barry, all at home. We have ten great-grandchildren.

Our home since August, 1977 has been in Meadowcroft, a Senior Citizens' highrise in the Westmount area of Edmonton. We are very thankful to be here among so many friendly folks, with entertain-

ment in pleasant surroundings and with so many conveniences almost at our door — buses, Woodwards, Westmount Shopping Center, Safeways, theatre, dining lounge, library and clinic.

We are also thankful that we can still enjoy travelling and are looking forward to a trip this spring.

Ferguson, Ralph and Ruth

by Ralph M. Ferguson

My parents were Kenneth T. Ferguson and the former Fanny E. McCleery, Canadian and American by birth and of Scottish descent. I was born in the old R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville and grew up on our farm due north of Royal Park in the Kolomea School District. Kolomea was our school but we attended church services and took in some of the community activities at the Park Grove School in the next district to the east.

Following primary and a bit of secondary schooling at Kolomea I completed my secondary education with three years at the Vegreville High School, with math from Mr. Strong, science from Miss Garrison, Latin from Mr. Miller and English from Miss Clements. Then I farmed for a year. The government was promoting the idea that the country needed men with technical training and so I went on to the University of Alberta and a degree in civil engineering.

As a graduate my first position was with the Federal Government on surveys of the Columbia River Basin. Information gathered was to be used in the selection of dam sites. I was not an outdoor type and so I moved on. Most of my employment has been in the offices of steel fabricators. I have now been with Dominion Bridge Co., Toronto, for eleven years designing pressure vessels, oil tanks, smoke stacks, et cetera.

In Calgary I married Ruth Myers who had moved there from Regina and Saskatoon. We have four children with the following names, birth dates and birth places: Joyce, 1952, Calgary; Brian, 1954, Calgary; Douglas, 1962, Winnipeg; and Neil, 1965, Hamilton.

Joyce, a graduate in textile technology from Mohawk College in Hamilton, is now Mrs. George Fingland of Kingston and mother of our two young grandsons Edward and Ian. Our son-in-law George is a technical representative for Dupont. Brian has a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Toronto and is employed in electronics design by Canadian Digital Communications Ltd. of Mississauga. Douglas and Neil are in high school.

Ferguson, Richard and Priscilla

by Richard Ferguson

I came to Vegreville in 1928; cut brush and helped

break up the Ranch, as we called it. I worked on farms around the district, and in 1935 I married Priscilla Dewart. We started our married life in "Do Drop Inn" on Section 9. In 1940 I took a job with Alberta Wheat Pool as a grain buyer at Royal Park.

In 1950 I went into partnership with the Massey-Harris Farm Machinery in Vegreville.

In 1960 I left the Massey-Harris to run a B. A. Service Station known as Fergie's B. A. Service and sold Volkswagen cars.

In July 1964 I sold out, and in February 1965 I started selling cars for Raydon Motors.

We have a family of six children — two boys and four girls: Dwaine, Gail, Rudy, Anita, Wendy and Diane.

Dwaine lives in Edmonton and drives Greyhound Buses.

Gail and Wendy are living in Vegreville. Rudy Douglas (Butch) owns a Body Shop under the name of Ardie's Body shop. Anita lives in Calgary and Diane also lives in Calgary and works for A.G.T.

My wife and I curl in the winter and play golf in summer and travel around at our leisure.

Ferguson, Wesley and Elaine

by Elaine Ferguson

On September 7, 1963 Wesley and I were married at St. Martin's Church in Vegreville. We bought Buster Jennings farm which is situated on the SW ¼ of 24-53-15-W4. The buildings consisted of a house and garage. The house was about forty years old with no modern conveniences, except power.

In 1964 we started a family and now have four children, Shayne 14, Lannette 13, Jason 9, Lorne 4. In 1965 Wes started driving truck for Bill Triska, but soon went into the trucking business for himself. He has worked for different companies, but presently has one truck working for Nelson Lumber and the other hauling gravel.

In 1966 I started a career with Alberta Government Telephones and worked full-time until 1974. Since then I go back every spring as a casual.

In 1972 Joyce, Wes' sister, bought Harold Fuller's farm and we moved there as we had outgrown the little old house on our farm. We are presently living there, but are in the process of building a new home a quarter mile south of our old house. We enjoy living in the Park Grove district.

Ferguson, William and Barbara

by Richard Ferguson

Will Ferguson, my dad, came with his parents, George and Elizabeth Ferguson, from North Dakota in 1897 to Killarney, Manitoba, and later, in 1903 they moved to a homestead west of Edmonton near

Onoway to a little place called Pine Ridge. George and Elizabeth Ferguson had a family of ten — Stephen, William, Fredrick, Kenneth, Charles, Milo, James, Maud, Effie and Olive. It was a very wooded area where their homestead was located, but they proved it up, built all the buildings, had quite a large house and kept the Post Office in a corner of it. As the boys grew older they left home to get jobs and in 1916 Kenneth and Jim went overseas. When they returned they got jobs in Edmonton as motormen on the street-cars. Stephen moved to Australia. William married Barbara Ziegler September 3, 1907. Will got a job hauling coal in Edmonton, later moved to Pine Ridge and took up a homestead close to where his folks lived. Later they moved to Spruce Grove and he worked for Allan Brebner and they lived in a house in their yard. In the fall of 1915 Will bought a Case



The Will and Barbara Ferguson Family. Oldest to the youngest, left to right — Effie, Marjorie, Richard, Gladys, Arnold, Henry, Kathleen, Douglas, Dorothy, and Shirley — and seated are their parents. Calgary, July, 1940.



Will Ferguson, Richard's dad, on his Case Steam engine with 7-bottom breaker, breaking up Sec. 9 in the Park Grove district, 7 miles north-west of Vegreville — with John Ziegler's help. John was the waterman and also took his turn on the engine. A steam engine could not be run without water so there was always a large water tank on a wagon with a team hitched to it close by. It also had a large fire-box that needed refueling and this engine had a large iron box beside the fire-box door to keep the fuel — wood or coal. Occasionally straw was used for fuel. The two little boys on the plow are Bill and Alex Ziegler. 1914.



Ferguson family (l. to r.) — Will, Fred, Ken, Charlie, Milo, Jim, Effie. (All except Effie lived in Vegreville area at one time.) About 1950.

steam engine, a Case separator and water wagon and threshed the crops for Barbara's Dad and many of the neighbors. In 1913 Barbara's Dad bought a section here in Vegreville and in 1914 Will and Barbara and family moved down with his threshing outfit. He and John Ziegler broke up the section with his Case steam engine.

In 1919 they moved into Vegreville where he took over a farm implement agency and the house they moved into is still standing on 49 Ave. half a block west of main street.

There was an ad in one of the farm papers: for \$5.00 you could get a homestead of forty acres out in beautiful British Columbia. That seemed to be an attractive offer to Will, so in 1923 they moved to Passmore, B.C. thirty miles west of Nelson, B.C. After running steam engines and sawmills, in 1925 he moved to Calgary and took a job as serviceman for J.I. Case Co. in southern Alberta.

In 1941 he purchased a section of land on the Old Banff Coach Trail just south of Bowness Park. They lived there with their family of ten children until Mother passed away in 1958 and Dad in 1967. They had four boys and six girls: Effie, Marjorie, Richard, Gladys, Arnold, Henry, Kathleen, Douglas, Dorothy and Shirley. The family is all living at the present time.

Fliczuk, George and Mary by son, Bill

George and Mary Fliczuk are Vegreville pioneers who arrived in Vegreville in 1917.

Mr. Fliczuk was born in Ilynci, Sniatyn, Ukraine on February 15, 1892. His parents were George and Anna (nee Tkachuk).

Mrs. Mary Fliczuk was born on a Dutch ship in 1903. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Peteski, emigrated to Canada, and settled on a farm in the Plain Lake District.



George's Grocery, Vegreville, Hwy. #16, east, about 1941.



George's Grocery — Vegreville. George Fliczuk, owner, 1931.



Fliczuk Family (l. to r.): Olga, Bill, George (dad), Zena, Anna, Mary (mom), by grandmother Petasky's house. Car is a 1935 Plymouth. 1938.

After completing elementary school, George worked in Rumania and Germany, before emigrating to Canada in May, 1911. From Quebec City he travelled to Winnipeg, then west to work for the Grand Trunk Railway between Edson and Entwistle. A strike ended this employment, and after spending the winter in Edmonton, he went to Saskatoon where he worked in the C.N.R. roundhouse for 1½ years. He worked in Western Canada at various jobs and in 1916 he attended Alberta College. In 1917 he came to Vegreville as a livestock buyer, then later on worked with Clements Ltd. from February, 1918, to April, 1922.

In July, 1920, he married Mary Peteski, daughter of Martin and Antonia (nee Izinecki) Peteski.

After the birth of their daughter Olga, in 1922, George and Mary spent the winter in Edmonton. In April, 1923, the family moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Mr. Fliczuk worked for the Ford Motor Company. A son, William, was born in Detroit in January, 1925, and in 1926 the family moved back to Vegreville. A second daughter, Anna, was born in July, 1926, in Vegreville.

In July 1929 George opened George's Grocery and Confectionery and with his wife and children worked at the business until December, 1964.

Their youngest daughter, Zena, was born in 1929 and passed away at the age of sixteen. Their youngest son, James, was born in January, 1941, in Vegreville.

Daughter Roslin Ramsey (nee Olga Fliczuk) is a chartered accountant and resides in Calgary with her husband Croft. They have two daughters.

Son William is a supervisor with Alberta Power Ltd. and lives in Vegreville with his wife, Marge, who is presently assistant-librarian in the Vegreville Public Library. They have two daughters.

Daughter Anna, a legal stenographer, and her husband Walter Kirilo live in Edmonton. They have two daughters and a son.

James Fliczuk, a chartered accountant and his wife Phyllis reside in Victoria, B.C. where James is employed by the Province. They have two sons.

Mr. Fliczuk passed away in Vegreville on May 3, 1973. Mrs. Fliczuk resides in her home in Vegreville.

Fliczuk's store, now demolished, was located on 50 Avenue, just east of the present Tom-Boy store; it was made up of two smaller buildings which had been moved in from the Old Vegreville hamlet. The cosy little store and its genial proprietor played an important role in developing the new town. Its proximity to the market square, smithy, and chop mill made it a handy drop-in centre for farmers, especially in winter. In Fliczuk's they could warm up, have a snack, gossip with George, and buy groceries and almost any little sundry needed. For the younger set, both town and rural kids, it was the place to go to spend precious pennies on an awesome assortment of bright candy. It must have been exasperating for George or "Mrs. George" to wait while a child wavered over "jaw-breakers" or "black babies", but they waited until the 2 cents was spent.

Fodchuk, Dmytro and Helen

Courtesy of the Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta

In this age of easy mobility, the concept of living in one community for fifty-six years is difficult to

grasp. That is how long Dmytro and Helen Fodchuk lived in the Vegreville District.

Dmytro Fodchuk, son of Paul and Maria Fodchuk, was born November 7, 1885, in the village of Tulowa, county of Sniatyn, province of Halychyna, Ukraine. His youth was spent attending the local school and working with his parents in the fields adjoining the village. In 1908 Paul and Maria Fodchuk, along with many other residents of Tulowa, emigrated to Canada, joining Maria's brothers, the Gregoraschuks, in the Lamont area. The Fodchuks took their younger sons with them. Dmytro, being the eldest and of military age, was conscripted into the army of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austro-Hungary, and spent the next three years in Vienna as corporal in the Emperor's bodyguard in the Imperial Palace of Schoenbrunn.

In 1911 Dmytro sailed for Canada from Hamburg on S.S. Argentina, landing in New York. From there he left by rail to join his parents and five brothers in Edmonton. The early 1900's were a period of rapid growth in Edmonton, and many Ukrainian immigrants found work as construction hands. From 1913 to 1914 Dmytro helped lay the streetcar rails on the High Level Bridge. Working conditions were bad and wages were low, but somehow the immigrants managed to survive.

On July 12, 1913, Dmytro married Helen Kostash at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Greek Catholic church in Mundare. The day was beautiful and the gods smiled upon the young couple as they drove in a democrat, ten miles to the church to receive the nuptial blessings. However, next day, the heavens opened up and the wedding festivities were seriously dampened by a chill and drizzly "nor-easter".

Helen Fodchuk, born October 10, 1896, in Tulowa, Sniatyn, was the only daughter of Fred and Anna Kostash. In 1900, Fred and Anna Kostash, Helen, and one son, Harry, sailed for Canada on the S.S. Arcadia. They landed in Halifax in March and left by train for Edmonton. From there they travelled to Lamont to join the Gregoraschuk and Porayko families who had arrived in 1899. This gave them an opportunity to find and file on a homestead in the Kolomea-Sich district of Vegreville.

Through necessity husbands often left home to work afar, leaving the wives to do the outside chores under the most difficult circumstances. Fred and Anna Kostash were of this group. Thus life for young Helen and brother Harry was not easy. While her mother worked in the fields along with her husband, Helen did small household tasks and looked after her young brothers, six of whom followed one another every two years to join their brother, Harry.

Because her parents had great respect for learn-

ing, Helen was given the opportunity to attend Kolomea School (opened in 1907) when it was in operation during the summer months. Perhaps she was fortunate in another respect. During the winter months, Zigmund Bychynsky, a pioneer teacher who lived with the Kostash family, gave Helen, her aunt Anne Svarich, and two or three other girls of the same age, private lessons in the Kostash home. This early introduction to education proved invaluable when later Helen taught her children the alphabet on a sugar sack.

As Helen was growing up, she was never completely free from the responsibility of caring for her young brothers. It seemed that she had to look after them even when she was at play with her friends. Then on July 12, 1913, she married Dmytro.

From 1913 to 1914 Helen and Dmytro lived in Edmonton where Dmytro worked as a construction hand. Jobs were scarce and became even more scarce when in 1914 war broke out in Europe and the recent arrivals from Austria were declared aliens and undesirable for almost any kind of work.

So Helen and Dmytro moved to a homestead in the Athabasca area. Life on the homestead was difficult and lasted about two years. In 1916 they returned to the Vegreville district to take over a farm adjoining the Kostash homestead.

The early years on the farm were filled with the usual hardships. Because of the scarcity of money, only the most necessary of farm implements were bought. And as always, a team of horses, a cow, some chickens and a pig completed the necessities for a livelihood. Dmytro was instrumental in organizing the Kolomea-Sich Ukrainian Orthodox Church and was its secretary for a number of years. He remained a member of it till his death. At the same time Helen took a keen interest in the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada and is, at present, a very active member of the Vegreville branch.

Helen and Dmytro were interested not only in the spiritual aspect of the community but also in its educational and social needs. Dmytro was chairman of the Kolomea School Board for six years (1924-1930). He was also a loyal member of both the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Vegreville Co-op. For many years he was a member of the M. H. Institute in Edmonton.

Even among the needs of operating a farm and raising a family, Helen and Dmytro found time for participation in many drama groups which were popular throughout the pioneer communities in the early days.

Material things were not always available, but this did not deter Helen and Dmytro from providing a

good education for their four children: Marion, Jennie, Orest and Boris.

In 1960, Helen and Dmytro retired to Vegreville with Orest taking over the family farm. Marion, (Mrs. Dan Lutzak) and Jennie (Mrs. Henry Kwasney) reside in Edmonton, while Boris, a lawyer, lives in Vancouver. Eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren form the extended Fodchuk family.

On April 12, 1972, Dmytro died but Helen continues to live in Vegreville comforted by the love of her children and busy in the women's organization connected with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

(Helen passed away suddenly in February, 1980.)

Fodchuk, Orest and Alice **by Alice Fodchuk**

Orest Fodchuk and Alice Mills, a widow with four children, were married October 29, 1960. This is when Orest took over the farming in Vegreville. Orest had started farming with his dad after completing High School at the Edmonton Technical School in 1943. In the spring of 1944 they purchased their first tractor and enlarged their farming operation by renting and eventually purchasing the quarter south of the home quarter. That tractor is still in operation being used as a chore tractor.

The home quarter has always been in the family, having originally been purchased from Mr. Scritzmeyer by Orest's grandfather, Fred Kostash, whose homestead was one mile west.

Alice's ancestors are from this area also. Her grandfather, Stephan Porayko homesteaded the present Stan Porayko farm. This farm has also stayed in the family.

The children, all girls, were Barbara and Beverly (twins), Jo-Anne, then Lorna. As each reached the age of fourteen, they joined various 4-H Clubs. Beverly and Jo-Anne participated in the Beef Club, while Barbara and Lorna were interested in the Sewing Club. Lorna also belonged to the Garden Club for several years.

Believing in higher education, all the girls graduated from University, Barbara, Beverly and Jo-Anne in Education and Lorna in Commerce.

Beverly married Barry McCarty. They moved to Edmonton where Barry worked at the University Farm and Beverly continued attending University. Presently they are living in Lavoy, where they have built a home. They have three children. She is teaching Kindergarten in Vegreville, while Barry is apprenticing in tinsmithing.

Barbara taught for three years, one in Spirit River and two in Evansburg. She and a friend were infected with the travel bug and took off for a year of teaching

in Australia. They used every opportunity to travel around that country and New Zealand. They then took the long way home, via Africa and Europe. Barbara did not go back to teaching. She is presently working for NuWest Homes in Edmonton.

Jo-Anne married Harley Fried. They bought a farm ten miles south of Vegreville (Fred Wasyleski place). It was from here that Jo-Anne completed her University education, driving to Edmonton, sometimes every day and other times every other day to classes for several years. She is not teaching at the present time but assisting with their extensive farming operation.

Lorna graduated in the spring of 1978 in Commerce and is presently working in Edmonton. For two years she worked part-time to help finance her way through University.

In 1967 Alice had decided to go back to University as her Centennial project. The mixed farming was reduced to beef and grain. This has given them a bit of spare time to do a little travelling. This is her tenth year teaching in Lavoy.

The farming operation has been successful, some years more so than others. The worst year was 1971 when they were haled out almost one hundred percent. That is the only time that has happened. The best year so far was 1977 when Orest combined 8100 bushels of oats off 80 acres.

Forbes, John Gordon **by daughter Gertrude as told to M. L. English.**

At 32 years of age, and well established in a business in North Dakota, John decided to go to the North West Territories and start ranching.

He came to Red Deer, the end of the railroad in 1900, and finally found a homestead at Warwick, then returned and married, in 1901, his sweetheart, Minnie Elliot. He bought some cattle, mostly beef-dairy cross and shipped a team of work horses and two light mares, the cattle and all his settlers' effects. With his wife, who came ahead to wait for him in Red Deer, they started out from there to this homestead, fording rivers, fighting flies and mosquitoes.

He hired Basil Theroux to freight the lumber to build a house and he became acquainted with the people of Old Vegreville.

There was a Dr. Rush there and in 1903, he had to ride there to get the doctor to come for the first arrival of the family.

He stayed there about six years, then sold the homestead and moved north of the Saskatchewan River, north of Saddle Lake and bought a ranch, and had a good thing going, but had to drive the cattle for sale to Vegreville, swimming them across the Saskatchewan River.

Kids must go to school so he bought a house in Vegreville and moved Mother there. That did not work either so he sold this ranch, bought a farm at Lafond, south of the Reserve. It was a French district, there was a school, but lessons were partly in French. So after fixing the place all up with a new house, barn, etc., he sold out again and moved back to Warwick and lived in a tent till Charles Gordon of Vegreville built a house, barn and granary. By this time, 1913, the last of the family was born, a son John Forbes Junior, and the farm was going well. Then he sold out again and moved to Two Hills, built another house, hauled all the lumber from Vegreville with horses, as he had done at Warwick. This place was called the "Two Hills Ranch" and had belonged to George LeRoy Smith, who left here in 1912. He had lots of horses, draft and driving and saddle horses.

Again he bought a house in Vegreville, fixed it up so the family could go to a better school and have music lessons.

Then came the depression and he sold the Vegreville house and sent the two eldest girls to a Ladies' College in Edmonton.

That's the story of one pioneer who died in Vegreville in 1939. The Two Hills property still remains in the family; John Forbes Junior lives there. One daughter, Gertrude born at Warwick, who loves the land, inherited his love of horses and still remains close to her birthplace, never giving up the roots, or horses, or country life.

Fraser, A. W. **by Margaret (Fraser) Shaw**

A. W. (Bert) Fraser and his friend Bill McKenzie, both raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, came to Vegreville in 1905 and built the McKenzie and Fraser General Merchants Store. The building has had several owners since it was sold to Peter and Andy Svarich in 1913.

Bill McKenzie moved to Edmonton, while Bert went into the Real Estate business. Later Peter Nestoruk joined the firm.

In the spring of 1906, Bert's family arrived from Winnipeg. Mrs. Georgina Fraser was accompanied by her young daughter Margaret (Margie) and her son Carroll who was a babe in arms. The third child Robert was born in Edmonton in 1907.

Previous to 1905, Vegreville was situated five miles south-west of the present location. When the railroad came through, the story goes that even in those days there were speculators, and the price being asked for the right of way was turned down by the railroad company. They purchased land five miles away from Barney Huyke. The new site was in what was virtually a slough bottom with the result

that in the spring and in wet weather the streets were a quagmire.

I well remember the wooden side-walks two feet above the road in front of the stores, and higher towards the railroad end of Main Street, and the hours I and my school chums spent crawling under the sidewalk looking for nickels. Occasionally we were lucky and would spend the remainder of the afternoon deciding whether to buy jaw-breakers or chocolate haystacks in Billy Thornton's Candy Store.

Before the family arrived in Vegreville, Dad roomed above the Merchants' Bank with several other men who were single or whose families hadn't arrived. Among the lodgers was the manager of the Creamery. The Creamery was located on Railroad Avenue across from the freight sheds. Every Sunday the big churn was filled with warm water and the manager and his friends took their weekly ablutions. A case of what you don't know won't hurt you.

One summer when mice were over-running our hayloft, we were offered 5¢ for every mouse we killed. I'm afraid my father had misjudged our powers of ingenuity. We collected our pals, and armed with pitch forks and scoop shovels we attacked the pile of green feed in the loft. The scoop shovels were used as a guillotine as the mice ran for their holes. We packed the dead mice in a shoe box and hurried down to collect. As we entered the store my father was selling yard goods to Mrs. Walker, whose husband was a partner in the Clute and Walker Furniture Store. We presented our afternoon's work, taking off the lid of the shoe box. Mrs. Walker gave a shriek and slipped to the floor in a dead faint. When the good lady had been revived and the furore was over, we were informed that in future all we needed to present were the tails.

A history of Vegreville wouldn't be complete without mention of Miss Ada I. Wright. I was very fortunate in that she was my teacher for six of my eight years in public school. She was a splendid teacher and very fair and understanding.

A pupil of Miss Wright's, Leo Tierney, was taken to hospital with a ruptured appendix during the summer holidays. There were no antibiotics then and a ruptured appendix was very serious. Leo was very popular with everyone and was instigator of his share of pranks around school; with the result that the teachers usually kept a seat at the front of the class for Leo. The rumor went around town that Leo couldn't recover and that he was calling for Miss Wright. When Miss Wright came out of the sick-room with tears streaming down her face, she turned to Mr. and Mrs. Tierney and said, "That boy isn't going to die! Do you know what he wanted? He asked me to save a

seat for him at the back of the class." Needless to say for one year at least, Leo knew what it was like to sit at the rear of a class.

I well remember the day Miss Wright went to a funeral in the afternoon and left our class with enough seat-work to keep us occupied. However, it was a lovely sunny day and it wasn't long before most of the class were at the windows and calling out to people passing by. This came to an abrupt halt when the principal walked in with the strap in his hand, lined us all up and gave us the strap on each hand. We got the message faster and remembered it longer than we would have had he just lectured us.

Fires were a real hazard. Mother's two young sisters were visiting from Winnipeg when the original Alberta Hotel burned down. They joined the bucket brigade that fought all night to save the surrounding buildings. The water was pumped from a well on the corner directly across from the present Bank of Montreal. It was due to the efforts of every available adult that the rest of the town was saved. My aunts came home in the morning with their ankle-length skirts frozen stiff. It was a tragedy that Mr. Shipley, the owner of the hotel, caught pneumonia and died.

Several times we were sent home from school when the skies became dark with the smoke from prairie fires. One fire that swept across country from Viking was particularly hard to put out. It seemed to flare up at night and every available man would go out armed with wet gunny sacks and brooms to fight it. I recall hearing my father tell my mother that if the fire jumped the Vermilion River she was to take the children and some wet blankets and take refuge on the railroad tracks.

The Flu Epidemic proved how the people of Vegreville rose to an emergency. The old Queen's Hotel, now known as the Prince Edward, was turned into an emergency hospital. Mrs. Chester Arthur was the Matron-in-Charge. She was a friend of my mother's, and when she said they were so short staffed they would be glad of any help, mother said that I could take temperatures if that would help. Most of the patients didn't question a school kid taking temperatures, but one or two demanded a nurse.

My father, as did several men of the town, drove the country calling at the farm homes to see if help was needed. I well remember the night he carried Tilda Mohr into the hospital. He had called at the Mohr home to find everyone down with Flu, and Tilda on the verge of pneumonia. Fortunately neither of my parents caught the Flu, and so more chicken soup was made in our kitchen and taken to the sick, than was ever made before or since. Every home with a healthy adult was doing the same.

You are dated if you remember the cheese cloth masks we wore by Order-of-Council when on the streets. They were hooked behind your ears by means of tape loops, and covered your nose and mouth. Mother added a second precaution by sprinkling ours with camphorated oil.

Both my parents were active in the community. Mother worked in the Anglican W.A., the Red Cross and the I.O.D.E. My father was on the town council for several years and served two terms as Mayor. He headed the Victory Loan drives, and was active in the United Church serving several years as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Carroll and Bob saw active service in the Second World War. Carroll as a Lieutenant Air Gunner in the R.C.A.F. and Bob as Machinist Mate 1st. Class in the Fleet Air Arm of the U.S. Navy. After the war, Carroll went into business in Peace River and Bob went back to work at Fox Twentieth Century in Hollywood as a Set Dresser.

I married A. W. (Buster) Shaw and we lived in Vegreville until 1964 when Buster retired from the automobile business and we moved to Edmonton.

A spell of nostalgia overcomes me when I think of the Sunday school picnics, at Sick Man's Lake and the hour-ride in a hayrack to get there. The thrill of watching the cranking of the ice-cream freezers, and that never-to-be-forgotten taste of home-made ice-cream. The smell of baking bread brings back memories of Mrs. Hepburn's kitchen with the neighborhood children standing around her kitchen table like young robins waiting for a slice of fresh bread generously sprinkled with brown sugar.

I'm glad that I grew up in that era, and I feel a deep regret that so few of today's children know the sweet aroma of homemade bread, the taste of home-made ice-cream, or the experience of love and kinship, found in those small pioneer communities.

Fuller, Harold and Eva **by Eva Fuller**

Both Harold and I lived in the Park Grove district and attended school there.

We were married in Edmonton, Alberta, September 19th, 1937 by Rev. S. H. Irving.

We had two sons, Charles Laurence and Leslie Wayne. When Harold joined the Army in 1941 with the Ordinance Corps he was stationed in Eastern Canada until he went overseas to Great Britain, North Africa, Italy and Belgium. He returned to Canada, September, 1945.

We moved to a half-section farm in Park Grove, April, 1946.

Elaine was born in 1946.



Harold and Eva Fuller Family (l. to r.) — Elaine, Chic, Wayne, Harold and Eva, 1960.

We farmed there till 1971 and moved to Vegreville to Apartment living.

We have 10 grandchildren, Verlayne, Gary, Lorie, John, Charles, Cheryl, Keith, Kent, Grant and Kevin.

Gafka, Adolph and Minnie **by Glenna (Gafka) Paquette**

Adolph is the son of Philip Gafka, Sr., who arrived in Canada in May, 1900, with his wife and seven children and his son-in-law, Philip Hohn. They settled in Josephburg, Alberta, for almost two years, but had filed for homesteads in the Brush Hill area where they moved in 1902. The first farm was located at NE 16-53-14 W4; later they moved to the west half of section nine.

Adolph married Minnie Hohn on December 10, 1924. Minnie was the eldest daughter of Caroline and Jacob ("Blacksmith") Hohn. Born in 1902 in Niche, North Dakota, she came with her family to the Brush Hill district in 1912. Today her brother John and his wife, Katie, live in Haney, B.C.; and her youngest sister Jean (Mrs. Frank Rutter) resides in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Adolph Gafka was known as the Brush Hill butcher. He made sausage for the clan whenever an animal was slaughtered. He also played baseball as catcher for Brush Hill, and has a deformed finger to prove it. Later, he was an ardent fan at every local ball game; everyone knew when Ad was in the bleachers cheering for his team! Selling his farm in 1942, he moved to the "Eickmeyer" farm just a mile north of



Adolph and Minnie Gafka with their children, Leonard, Hazel (Dandeneau), Glenna (Paquette). 1938.

Vegreville where he farmed for a few more years. Then the family moved to town, where Ad worked as nightman at Thomas Garage for about twenty-two years and many are the tales he can tell of his weird and wonderful experiences there. Meanwhile, Minnie was always kept busy with cooking for threshers, riding horse-back to herd the milk cows to and from pasture, and growing a large garden every year. She was also active in Ladies' Aid and church activities in Brush Hill, and in raising her family.

Adolph and Minnie had three children, born, reared, and schooled at Brush Hill: Glenna (Gafka) Paquette of Vegreville; Hazel (Gafka) Dandeneau of Edmonton; and Leonard A. "Buzz" Gafka of Montreal. Adolph retired in 1965 and he and Minnie moved to Edmonton where they live comfortably in a suite in one of the Senior Citizens' Lions Club homes.

Gafka, Annie

Dedicated to — All my family and friends.

Our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mohr, left Stry, Austria, on the second of May, 1899. En route to Canada with them were their six children: Gustav age

18, Michael age 16, Philip age 11, Katharine age 8, Anna age 6 and Wilhelmina age 2.

Many tears were shed at the parting, where friends and relatives, including grandmother and grandfather's parents on Mother's side, went to the station to see us all off. To start off to Canada in those days, with a family of that size, was quite an undertaking. I can well remember the last breakfast with us all sitting around a long table, on the long bench, with our little pet dog Spotty underneath wagging his tail, and how we felt when we bid him goodbye.

We all boarded the train at Hamburg. Not many hours later, Sis Minnie (who was almost three years old) wanted to go home again! She started to cry, she wanted milk, and to go home to play with Spotty. By then we were all getting to feel rather blue and joined Sis in wanting to go home too. Oh, what a cry we had!

Well, we arrived in Germany. From Hamburg, we took a boat to cross over to England. That boat was terrible. It was a small, smelly cattle boat. We all got sea-sick. The meals were terrible — fat pork served cold, potatoes with their jackets on, the bread dark, coarse and some even moldy. The beds were large bunks of just boards, big enough to accommodate a whole family each. (The bunks folded up out of the way like chicken roosts so they could haul livestock or freight on the return trip.) The Sea Channel was rough so it was really a rock and roll trip across.

We arrived at Hull in England and took the train on to Liverpool. With no one being able to speak English, travelling was no pleasure. Whenever the folks wanted to buy some food, they were really handicapped. Those days there were no meals served on the train and furthermore they couldn't afford to eat it either. Any time we did eat out, we children were told not to eat so much as it would cost so much. So we were always hungry.

Going through England was a lovely drive till we landed at Liverpool. There we awaited our boat to take us to Canada The Land of Sunshine and Wide Open Spaces.... where much land was to be had just for the asking. The boat to take us to Canada was more comfortable, with cabins and better meals. The two brothers soon got acquainted with some of the sailors and also some of the boys who worked in the kitchen. So they often came back with some sweets and we travelled in comfort and had a much more pleasant voyage. It took us 10 days to get across and we were all happy to see land once more.

We landed at Montreal and went to the immigration hall to spend the night. The next day we took the train. It was there in Montreal that Sis Katherine's and my own pretty little white pety-coats were left

hanging on the bedstead. How we cried when the loss was discovered! Mother had just made them for us before we left. They were a shell embroidery in red, on white cotton and we were so proud of them.

From Montreal, we headed for Wisconsin, where Dad had a brother, John Mohr, on the farm. He came to meet us at Milwaukee with a wagon and team. All our belongings were loaded on the wagon and the whole family sat on top of that. We bumped over winding roads, through timber and brush until we got in sight of Uncle John's Mansion. When we saw it from a distance Mother asked, "Who's is that hut?" Uncle John humbly said, "That's our place." Well, our parents were shocked at the sod roof and log dwelling of two rooms, and bush and timber all around. A bit of garden dug among the trees and a little batch of crop here and there, but large tree stumps and roots everywhere. They had a cow and a few chickens and we were fed and gotten ready for the night. The boys went to the neighbors where they bought a bundle of straw that was put on the floor. And our bedding on top of that. In the night it started to rain and how it came down. No sooner did it rain outside, then it started to rain inside of the house too. Mother gathered up the feather ticks and other bedding and piled them up in a corner. We stood around mother with the umbrella up, in the house to keep us dry. That was indeed a long night and as daybreak came, Father decided to go on further and leave us children and Mother behind. He went on to Winnipeg after a few days' visit with his brother, as he could see no future in Wisconsin for his family among the timber roots.

After two weeks, Father wrote that he had found work and had bought a small house. We all followed and in June we landed at Winnipeg where we settled once more. Father, Gus and Michael went harvesting in the fall to Morden, Manitoba and that was really what they wanted — to go farming again. But land was high and cash was low. Then the call came, "Let's go West" where land was available. Mike, Phillip and I started school in September. Katherine, not being able to walk well, stayed home (she had fallen off a table as a youngster and hurt her back). Sis Tilda was born in September and that meant another one to feed. That winter, there was very little work other than to go out with the buck-saw from house to house and saw wood, or dig some ditches. Well, that did not appeal to Dad. In May next spring, Dad sold the house and we headed by train to Edmonton, bringing along all our belongings, the little furniture, bedding and all we owned. We landed in Edmonton in May, 1900, on the South side. As there was no railroad across the river yet and no bridge either, we and all our belongings were loaded on a

dray wagon, and we crossed over to North Edmonton on a ferry. Mother, carrying the baby, with the rest of us all walking behind, went down the hill and up again to the Immigration Hall. It stood on Jasper Ave. and near the river bank (would be about 99th or 100th St). We settled there for a few days. Mother washed some clothes and diapers for the baby. Dad headed for Fort Saskatchewan, walking. There he knew quite a number of friends that had come from the same village several years earlier, and had written Dad and told him there was lots of land available for only ten dollars a quarter: 160 acres. That was a lot of land to them in those days! Out in the old country, Dad only owned a few acres, but every foot was made to produce something. A few days later, Dad came back to Edmonton with a couple of friends, teams and wagons.

We, as well as our belongings, were loaded and headed for Josephburg. About seven miles east of Fort Saskatchewan we were unloaded in an empty house, till Dad could find some other place. There we received a real welcome from friends and relatives. Some brought food, and we were once more settled with our bit of furniture (which was very scanty). Mom and Dad traded off the second-hand table they had bought in Winnipeg for three little pigs they felt they needed worse than the table. Dad got a couple of boards and made us a table that really fit in with the rest of our belongings. Mother had bought a second-hand Raymond sewing machine at Winnipeg too; they were going to trade it off too, but several friends advised Mother not to. A good thing too, as it almost saved our lives. Sewing machines were scarce, and as



Philip Gafka Family, (l. to r.): Linda (Smith), Walter, Ruby (Nikiforuk), Albert, Dorothy (Vogel), and Philip and Annie Gafka, 1947. (See Gafka photo page 161.)

Mother was considered a pretty good seamstress, many women would come and sew. As money was scarce, they would often bring a bit of meat, butter, or a jar of jam or whatever they could spare, and we could eat. Dad bought a quarter of land in the neighbourhood and paid \$5.00 down on it. He bought a team of white horses, Queen and Prince, a wagon, harness and a walking plough. Again we moved, on our own this time, to a one-room house with a barn attached to the house on the north. Dad bought a heifer calf two years old that was to come fresh later in the spring. That would solve our milk problem. With the neighbours' help, they put in some crop and planted a garden with a large patch of potatoes. That indeed was our living for the summer.

About the same time as we moved into our own house, the Gafka family arrived from the same village we had come from just a year earlier and they moved into the house we had occupied. Grandmother sent little gifts for us children and many little articles we could sure use.

Father was here at Vegreville hauling logs to build a house at the homestead, so when our heifer was to calf, Mother and we smaller children were at home alone. The cow had her calf, but took sick and died, leaving a calf for us to look after. A calf to feed, with no milk for any of us! Mother sat down and had a good cry.

Every evening, brother Philip or I would go to the neighbours and get a gallon of separated milk. We would get a bit to drink and the rest of it was saved for the calf. We diluted it with water and raised the calf. A good friend gave the folks another heifer that was to calf later in the summer. Then we had milk, cream and butter. What a treat to have all the milk we wanted to drink! Mother would skim off enough cream so as to keep us in butter, and we then had a few hens that kept us in eggs for our own use. The folks had put in a big garden, so at one time when there was no money and we needed a few clothes, the folks dug new potatoes and took them to Edmonton. They went from house to house and sold them, and so got enough money to buy the few necessities that we needed so badly.

Brother Philip was janitor of the Josephburg one-room school and got \$1.50 a month. That was a lot of money at that time. Father helped work wherever he could, and in the winter he was out at the homestead building a house and barn. Gustav was with Dad helping him, and in March 1902, while Dad was away, sister Katharine took sick. She got pneumonia and passed away at eleven at night. How well I remember as she sat on the bed by the table and ate her last piece of bread with some jam that one of the good neighbors had sent us the day before, and how

she repeated the Lord's Prayer with us children at bedtime. She was a very clever child, but since she was a cripple from childhood, she could not go to school. When she fell off the table and hurt her back, it never really did knit or heal. There was no way of letting Dad know of her death, no railroads, no phones, or who would drive all the way out there to let Dad know. So with the help of the friends and neighbours she was laid to rest as the Josephburg cemetery. When someone from Vegreville came for supplies (Fort Saskatchewan had a grist mill to grind flour), Mom sent word back to Dad. He came home a few days later, driving all night across the country as roads were non-existent at that time. No night lodging could be found either, so Dad and Gus were almost frozen and starved, and the horses almost played out too, as it was bitter cold and a lot of snow all the way.

In May, another child was born, but he only lived about an hour and passed away. (I remember Grandma Thomas, Frank Hennig's grandmother, the midwife, baptized him John as he lay on a pillow beside the stove where it was warm.) He was buried beside Katharine at Josephburg.

In the fall of 1902, Father met with an accident. His shot gun discharged while he and Uncle Frank Thomas (grandma Thomas' son) were stacking grain. Dad had the shot gun in front of him on the rack, as they drove from one field to another, not knowing it was loaded. It went off and the full discharge shot away the lower muscle of his arm, with many shots in his left side as well. They got him home, blood streaming from his arm, though they tied the arm above the wound. He had lost much blood, so Philip went to one of the neighbors and they loaded Dad up, making a bed in a democrat and took him to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. He had to stay for several weeks so he didn't get to come out to the Vegreville homestead any more that winter.

Next spring, Dad, Mike and Gus came out and did some breaking of land and finished the house and barn. We moved to Brush Hill in the spring of 1904. Dad sold the farm he had bought at Fort Saskatchewan for what he had paid, and that helped to put a shingle roof on our farm home and a rough board floor inside.

The calves, pigs and chickens were loaded on the rack, with all the belongings and the family. A couple more cows were bought and these were tied behind the rack and so we came across country. We stayed overnight at Chipman at the Rudyks' place. The next day we made it to Brush Hill, to our new home where a brand new life began. The first place we came to was the Gafkas' place and we stopped there a while

before going on to our own place. We crossed the river at the Old Man Hohn's place that was a half-mile from our new home.

Those that homesteaded at Brush Hill all about the same time were the Merckels, Wagners, Strohs, Hohns, Gafkas and Mohrs. As time went by others moved in. At Warwick, a few miles north, were the Woods, McFarlands, Richardsons, Fairbairns, Burkholders, Northobs, Andersons and others. The Woods had the little store and Post Office where we got our mail and a few necessities. That was four miles north of our place and many a time I walked that to get a bottle of coal oil for our lamp. Our nearest town was Old Vegreville. As there were no roads, but across country, there were no bridges yet and one had to cross the river where the water was shallow and the banks not too steep. So if we went to town, it would be once in two or three weeks to get what was needed.

There was no school at Brush Hill, so in 1905 a district was formed by M. MacIntyre. The lumber was hauled by team from Edmonton and a school was built that summer, M. MacIntyre being our first school teacher. That winter there were six-to sixteen-year-olds in grade one, a few grade two, three, and four, and our highest grade was five.

In 1905, Mother was putting garden out on the fourth of April. We did get a bit of snow, but not cold. Dad had a good crop and the garden was good too, so that really helped with our living, but money was always scarce. One time Dad drove to Edmonton with a few sacks of wheat to get gristed into flour, and Mother had packed a tub of butter to send along. Dad sold it and bought a bolt of grey flannel that was to be for dresses for all of us girls and Mother. Oh, how we hated that cloth! But, what could you do? It was made into dresses, bloomers and petticoats. The white flour sacks were used for blouses after they were bleached (pure lye was used to bleach them). Mother made us skirts and we had white blouses. We looked like the Hutterites all dressed the same. But there was no choice and at least we were dressed.

We had our own bread by then, a good garden, all the milk, butter, cream and cheese we could eat. Dad butchered a pig. Wild ducks were plentiful, so were partridges, so there was never a shortage of meat. We had more butter than we could eat, but one could not print it in pounds as it would melt before you brought it to the Old Vegreville store. So Mother rendered some for winter use. Later the stores got more tubs, and it was sold by the tub-full and weighed out, but cash was always short.

The first few years there was always a stream of people walking from Edmonton looking for homesteads. East of us was a lot of bush, so often we would

have men sleeping on the floor. In our one-room house with a bed in each corner, there wasn't much room and often we had to step over the sleeping men to get to the stove.

In 1905 and 1906, a Minister would come from Fort Saskatchewan, driving a horse and buggy and we would have service, not on a Sunday, but any day of the week. This was held in Brush Hill School and the service was held in German, as most of the people nearby could only speak German. In August of 1905 Dad, brother Philip and I drove to Fort Saskatchewan by team and wagon to the wedding of one of my cousins. Brother Mike worked there and he was the best man. We started out early in the morning, and by late afternoon it started to rain and how it came down. Dad unhitched the team and tied them to the wagon and we got underneath the wagon to get out of the rain. Soon it started to drip under the wagon too, but we stayed there all night and in the morning went on and arrived there by noon. It was always "cross country" as there were no roads as yet.

Old Vegreville had a fair that fall so we all drove there to take in the sports, and while we were there the wind turned and soon the countryside was filled with smoke and we could only see a short distance. That meant that there was a prairie fire not too far off. There were some exhibits, the men played ball, had a tug-of-war and a pig was greased up and turned loose and the men all ran after it and the one who caught it got to keep the pig. The smoke kept getting thicker so we all headed for home and we were on watch all that night. The next day we could see the flames coming over Brush Hill, so all went out with pails of water and gunny sacks to fight the fire and save the buildings, but Dad always had a ploughed fire-guard around the buildings.

In the summer of 1905 the CNR started to work on the road-bed for the tracks and several boys from Brush Hill went to work driving a team and scraper 10 hours a day at \$35 a month. The first train came through Vegreville late in 1905, and what a thrill that was when we heard the first whistle from the farm. These were all steam engines then, so could be heard from a long way.

From then, one could see more land broken, some fences built, and a bridge was built over the Vermilion River, more homesteaders came and soon some CPR and school land was put on sale. At first, that sold for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre, but as the demand for land increased, the land went up in price.

When the work on the railroad started in 1905 and 1906, the businessmen decided that the hamlet of Old Vegreville must move to the new site by the railroad, and by the spring of 1906 several of the

merchants had moved their stores, and by late that fall one could hear and see the most welcome trains.

Among those that came from Old Vegreville were the Robertson brothers with their harness shop, the W. Clements with their general store, the Poulins, who also had a store. In the spring of 1907 the R.M.B. Hospital was built and could accommodate 20 patients. The first Matron was Miss Mayfair, and with the help of some willing ladies the Hospital really started in Vegreville.

Things really started to boom at the new site, a hotel was built, the Queen's Hotel run by Shipleys, the Catholic Mission Church was moved in and it was indeed pleasant to hear the music of the Church bells. These bells were donated by August Hartman, and soon a school was started with about 30 pupils to begin with. Mr. William Clements was the first Mayor of Vegreville and Miss A. I. Wright the first school teacher. In 1916 the Sisters of Charity opened a 6-bed hospital. Mr. Woodhull Smith started the first newspaper. After only a few issues, the paper was taken over by Mr. A. L. Horton and he was the Editor till his death in 1957, when his son, Wilfrid, took over and is still at it.

The land was fertile, and we have seen some very good crops and also some poor ones, but we have never seen a complete crop failure. We had a very early frost one year, and there wasn't much to thresh, but we had lots of good feed for the cattle and got by for another year. The land was new, and we could grow some real good gardens. One thing that was always a battle were the mosquitoes. They were big, hungry and plentiful. The grass was lush and tall and made for good hatchings every year. So when people came with cattle and horses, there had to be a big smoke day and night, and as no pastures were fenced as yet, to keep them close to home, the men would build a big smoke in the evening with dry wood and then cut sod and build these all round the wood fire so that it would last all night. I have seen men out breaking new land, or working the field with a smoke pot at each end of the field. When it was windy, the cattle and horses would go against the wind, and one often had to go miles to find his horses or cattle in the morning.

Our very first crop that was threshed on the homestead was threshed by flail, and some was spread on the ground and horses led back and forth and tramped out, then on a windy day the chaff was fanned out. We had some good samples of wheat, and in the fall the farmers would take enough wheat to either Fort Saskatchewan or Edmonton and have their own flour gristed and enough cream of wheat made to last a year. There was never a shortage of meat, as often we would get up in the morning and

the prairie chickens would sit on the roof of the barn, or on the feed stacks by the dozen, and one shot would feed us. Bush partridges and ducks were also plentiful, so meat was no problem. Wild fruit was also plentiful, strawberries all over, raspberries, saskatoons and wild gooseberries. Mother made jam, and as sealers were scarce, she would use crocks and seal them with wax. In the fall, we would go and pick a whole big bag of hazelnuts, Mother would dry them and later we peeled the shells off and had nuts for Christmas. They were small, but we had more time than money.

When we went to school at Brush Hill, there was open land just west of the school and we would go out at noon or recess and catch butterflies. The countryside was alive with them, and some really beautiful ones too. We would mount them and what lovely pictures they would make. This is something we see so few of these days. The countryside was also full of lovely wild flowers, and there were buffalo trails and the tracks of the old river carts that hauled freight from Winnipeg to Edmonton or Fort Saskatchewan or the early Strathcona. On top of Brush Hill we could see what was once an Indian camp, and what could have been small graves — mounds of dirt built up with stones around them. In the winter, brother Philip would set traps for muskrats and weasels and I have helped to skin many of them. The hides were cheap then, but it was always a few extra dollars.

One big problem was digging wells. There were no drilling or boring machines then, so they had to be hand dug, and one had to go quite deep to get good water, so our water was hauled from the river for several years. The water in the river was not polluted as it is today, and there were good-sized fish in it in the spring, so Mother would salt them down and then pickle them and they made good eating.

Brothers Mike and Gus both had homesteads on the same section as Dad's, Mike on the northeast and Gus on the southeast. In 1907 Dad built a house and barn on Mike's quarter and they dug a well; then on August 22, 1907, Mike and Elizabeth Gafka were married and moved into their own homestead.

Jake Merkel had a quarter nearby, so one night Jake was over at brother Mike's place and when he got home it was so cold in the house that he took his straw mattress and bedding down to the cellar and made his bed on top of the potatoes. He had to keep them from freezing, and did, but when he got up in the morning everything was frozen solid in the house. That was nothing new, as all we had to burn was wood, and unless someone got up two or three times in the night to stoke the stove, everything in the house would be frozen solid.

In 1908, we built a new house on the homestead,

all built of logs with three rooms downstairs and three upstairs. A lot of the logs were hauled from across the North Saskatchewan river, and as there was a sawmill there, a lot of the lumber came from there too. The hauling of logs and lumber continued for several years, as Gafkas built a large barn and a house in 1907 and all the material for them came from north of the river. At least doors and windows could be bought in Vegreville by that time.

In 1911, Philip Gafka bought a half-section of land from S. McComb. He took a \$500.00 mortgage on the homestead as a down payment. There was not much broken up as yet, and only a small one-room shack on it, so in 1913 Philip built a big barn from logs on the place that is still standing, and in the fall of the same year he built a house all in frame with a big living room and kitchen and two bedrooms upstairs. It had a nice big window to the south and the inside was finished with beaver board with lath nailed over the joints and on December 29, 1913 Philip and I were married in the Brush Hill School, as we had no church as yet. It was a real summer day, and we drove to the school in a democrat. No one even wore a coat, the weather was so warm. We moved into our own place a couple of days later. Our honeymoon consisted of a drive from my folks' house to the new home in a lumber wagon with our few belongings (and these were very scanty). We had a sideboard in our living room, an end table and two chairs, but as we had a few dollars as wedding gifts, we sent away to Eatons for a dining room suite of a table and four chairs. We had an old cook stove in the kitchen and a little pot-bellied stove to heat the rest of the house, and nothing except wood to burn. Often when we came down in the morning, the tea kettle was frozen on the cook stove, the dipper frozen in the water pail and our bread frozen solid in the cupboard. There was no such thing as insulation in the walls, just rough boards with siding on the outside. We had no kitchen table, so my Dad and Philip's Dad came over and made us a table from scraps of boards that were left over from the building of the house. They also made us a bench, and these we used for a good many years until I got a new kitchen suite.

In 1916, the men formed a Church Board and decided that we should have a Church built, as up to then we were still served by Josephburg six miles east of Fort Saskatchewan. It was the German Reformed Church Mission from South Dakota, and as there was no such church or mission in Alberta, they wrote and asked for help, and sure enough they were given a loan. Members of the congregation all contributed what they could. Some of the members hauled gravel for the foundations, and the building was started that fall, but it got too cold to work so it was finished in

the spring of 1917. All the furnishings were bought from the Presbyterian Church in Vegreville after they united with the Methodist Church and became the United Church of Canada. The organ was one that had been brought out by one early settler, and was donated to the Church. All these furnishings are still in the white Church that stands in the corner of what is now Roy Cole's farm at Brush Hill. At the time of the building of the Church, the land was owned by a Mr. S. Hohn, Gottlieb Hohn's father, and he donated the land for the Church. My father, Joseph Mohr, donated the land for the cemetery, that lies east of the Church.

Members of the original Church Board were Philip Gafka Senior, Joseph Mohr, Philip Hohn and Jacob Hohn. All of these men and their wives are now resting in the Cemetery. The builders were Mr. Queringesser, Mr. Eickmeyer and Mr. Sherbert. The Church was dedicated about the middle of June, 1917, on a very lovely day with visitors from Fort Saskatchewan and surrounding countryside, and the Reverend Graeser, the Minister from Fort Saskatchewan.

As soon as the building loan was paid off, another was obtained for the building of the manse. That was built just west of the church, and as soon as that was finished, we had a resident Minister for a number of years.

In a few years, however, some of the old-timers passed on and the upkeep of the church began to suffer. The old-timers were getting fewer, and the younger ones took less interest so it was hard to make both ends meet, and eventually the Manse had to be put up for sale. It was sold and moved into Vegreville and is still in use as a home on the south side. After this, we were served by a student Minister from the United Church during the summer months. The last resident Minister to be stationed at Brush Hill was the Reverend Roemer. He lived at Salem, but after a few years it all folded up. Mr. Roemer left for Dakota, and no regular service has ever been held in Brush Hill Church since he left. The church is still fully furnished, but there is no Board any more, many of the congregation have moved away, still more have passed on, so the church stands there unused.

Right now, the only survivors of the old pioneers who built the church are Philip Gafka and Jake Merkel of Edmonton. We would very much like to see a plaque made and put on the Church as a memorial to the men and women who homesteaded and settled in the area in 1900 and 1901.

There just wasn't much to sell, and prices were very low — 35 to 40¢ for wheat and 9 to 10¢ for oats. There were taxes to pay, a mortgage and interest to pay on the land, so we had to be very careful in

spending. When we got married, Philip said, "If we can pay for the land in ten years, I'll be very happy", and sure enough, in ten years he made the last payment on the land and had some money left. With what was left, and a bank loan, he bought our first Chev. touring car that fall. The next year we put a full basement under the house, added another room upstairs and down, put in a furnace that burnt coal and had no more trouble keeping the house warm.

I had washed clothes on a scrub board all these years, but that fall I got a machine that was turned by hand. The first time I used it, Albert stuck his thumb in the gears and almost cut it off. Later, he was splitting wood and cut off a piece of the other thumb, so that's why he has two short thumbs. Was that ever torture to crank that old washing machine! We would melt snow in the winter and save rain water in the summer to wash with, but when we remodelled the house we had a large cistern built in the basement, so had rain water all year round.

There have been great changes in farming and harvesting over the years. Our first crop was sown by hand, broadcast, threshed by flail. The second crop was sown by an old drill and threshed by horse-drawn machine. By the third crop, we had a regular threshing machine come in. This was owned by the Dennis brothers from Old Vegreville. As there was more land broken up and more grain raised, other machines came in. The grain was all stacked and threshed by men pitching the bundles into the machine. In later years the crops were loaded in bundles on racks and hauled with teams to the machine and unloaded right into the separator. It took a lot of men, and we have had as many as 20 and 22 men on the threshing crew. We would cook a 20 lb. roast, bake 6 or 7 pies each day, serve an afternoon lunch always, and sometimes a lunch mid-morning too. It was hard work, but somehow, to us it was always a real picnic and we still miss those lovely get-togethers with our neighbours and friends. Now, it's the big iron horse and the cold steel tractors, swathers and combine, and somehow it takes just as long to take off the crop, and often not as good a sample as when the grain was threshed out of a stack.

Sixty or seventy years ago we knew all our neighbours for 10 miles around. There were many more social functions in our schools and halls, and we thought nothing of driving miles to attend a box social or a play put on by the local people. Nowadays, you are lucky to meet your next-door neighbours. People just don't have time to be friendly and visit with their neighbours any more. I still say, "Give me the good old days", and I have never regretted having lived through them and learned a lot from them. We have been here in Alberta for seven-

ty-four years, and have been married for sixty of them in December 1973. When you look ahead, sixty years seems a long time, but looking back on those years, you wonder where the time went so fast, and if it can really be so long.

We have seen many changes in those years, first the telephone was all new to us, then the radio came out and Oh such wonder to hear voices and music come over a wire! Then everyone said TV could not be possible, but now it's just another invention. Who would have thought that we could fly through the air like the birds, and how nice it is to step into a plane and hardly feel it going up into the air, and to reach our destination in such a short time. Now we have men going to the moon, and living in space for almost two months and even walking in space, and what is to come next? We probably won't live to see it, but our grandchildren may see many changes yet, and I wish them well.

God willing, we hope to celebrate our Diamond wedding anniversary on the 30th of December, 1973. We are not making any long range plans for the time ahead, as we both know our years were well spent and that we are now living on borrowed time, so we just live one day at a time. We can look back with little regret and have enjoyed our lives even though times were hard in the early days. We were never hungry, and neither of us had ever had a serious illness, so we have a lot to be thankful for, not least for the many changes that have taken place in the 80 and 87 years we have seen. (See p. 161.)

Garrison, Miss Daphne **Courtesy of the Vegreville Observer,** **February 22, 1979**

A personality of the town of Vegreville for a long number of years, a vibrant factor in the educational circles of the community, and an active participant in the affairs of youth as well as politics, died in Edmonton on February 13, 1979.

Miss Daphne Garrison, 84, was a member of the Vegreville High School teaching staff, the beginnings of which were in the mid-1920's and later spanned years included in the 1930's, 1940's and late 50's, when she retired.

There are few who ever attended the Vegreville High School when she was a member of the staff who did not at one time or another have occasion to meet Miss Garrison for she was the person who provided the fervor among students in activities which ranged far beyond her chemistry lab in the basement of the old school. And many of her students will recall with appreciation the broad fund of knowledge she tried to impart to even the most sluggard in her classes. Her classes ranged from Social Studies (of which she was

an astute student), French, English, Chemistry, Physics — almost the whole spectrum of high school subjects. She was admired by her colleagues and loved by her students — particularly when school days were over and the realization of her purposes was recognized. Students of over half a century ago recall with nostalgia “Garry” as one of the best. “When things seemed to go wrong,” remarked one of her colleagues when learning of her demise, “Garry could always come up with an idea to right things.”

Her students in later lives have reached degrees of both the very high and the most menial but all had the same affection for her as she did for them regardless of their particular stations in life.

Politically she was a Liberal supporter to the nth degree and spent hours if not days and weeks, on the campaign trail with candidates from various constituencies. Sometimes her forays met with success but as often as not it was a predetermined loss at the polls. But her enthusiasm never waned.

During the course of her career in Vegreville, Miss Garrison took a great interest in the Girl Guide Movement and held positions with the provincial organization in various capacities. Her sense of humour prevailed during extra hours with young people with whom she had been associated during most of the day in the classroom but that was her mettle. No doubt she was exasperated beyond reason at times.

She had a fine background in history, both American and Canadian, as well as global, and she loved to discuss it. As a conversationalist she had no peer and a visitor never felt the lack of finding a subject to discuss.

In her later years she retired to the “home place” at Westlock and seemed perfectly content to enjoy her friends of earlier years as well as visitors and to manage the farm. Not too long ago as the years crept up, she moved to Edmonton to be near her brother and sister in Edmonton. Only a short while ago she succumbed to the infirmities of physical age and died in hospital.

She is survived by three brothers and one sister, Lloyd of White Rock, B.C.; Norman of Quesnel, B.C.; Theron of Edmonton, Doris Owen of Edmonton; nine nieces and six nephews. A brother Ivan died in 1965.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 17, 1979, at 10:30 a.m. at the Hainstock and Son funeral chapel with Reverend V. Wishart officiating. Cremation followed. Charitable donations gratefully accepted in lieu of flowers. Hainstock & Son Chapel in charge of arrangements.

Gehring, Bill

Shell Agent Retires . . .

Courtesy Vegreville Observer, January 12, 1979

William Gehring, Vegreville Shell Oil Bulk Agent, retired July 4th after some thirty years with the company, the Observer learned last week.

Taking over duties from Mr. Gehring is Bill Montgomery of Vegreville.

Born in Trochu, Alberta in 1914, Mr. Gehring found early employment with the Gehring Brothers Transport in Trochu; was later employed with the National Grain Company for some 24½ years; and later joined Shell in the early 40's.

Commenting on his employment with the Company, Bill says, “I’ve had a good time. Made lots of friends in this town. I found it (the work) satisfying.”

Bill and Frances Gehring were honored by Shell Canada Ltd. for their association with the company and were presented with a handsome plaque of appreciation along with a pair of silver wine goblets.

William has always been an avid sportsman. “I attended the Lacombe baseball tournament for 30 years in a row.” A member of the Heather Curling Club since 1942, William was also involved in golfing. “I helped lay out the new course in 1945,” Mr. Gehring was also an original member of the Vegreville Rotary Club and held a 26-year perfect attendance record. “At one time or another, I was president of all these clubs.”

Since Bill moved to Vegreville, “I haven’t seen too many changes. The town has grown. The population was about 1,500; it’s probably 4,500 now or more.”

William and his wife, Frances, whom he has called the ‘backbone of the business’ are planning to remain in Vegreville. “We’re going to stay in Vegreville as far as I can see, for the present anyway.”

George, Albert Henry

submitted by Mr. and Mrs. T. Franklin

Albert Henry George, born in Ontario, came west about 1900 and started Lavoy’s first store. Charlotte (Lottie) Tompkins who had taught school in Idaho, USA, came to Lavoy to visit her sister Nellie, Mrs. Art Eaton; she stayed on to teach school in the area and thus met and married Albert George. Their child (the writer) was born at Lavoy, December 23, 1911, with Dr. Arthur attending at home. The Georges moved to Vegreville two years later, then back to Idaho, and later to Hamlin, Alberta, where Mr. George had a country store. After a break-up in the marriage, Mother met and married Leon Franklin whose father, John Franklin, had a dray business in Vegreville in the early years; in fact, he drove the



Albert Henry George with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry George in Ontario. About 1885.



Terrence (George) Franklin aged 8 mo. — on porch of house where he was born in Lavoy, 1911.

team that hauled the material to build Vegreville's first water tower.

We now live in Victoria, B.C. and a daughter, Patricia Loree, lives in Edmonton.



Back lane of Geraghty's home. The building in left foreground is ice shed for creamery. Building in right background is barn for teams of horses used for the lumber yard. (l. to r.) — Patricia Geraghty, Jimmy Westcott, Mary Geraghty. About 1920.

Geraghty Family by Mary (Geraghty) Duncan

I was born in the Vegreville General Hospital, March, 1915. My parents and family lived in Vegreville for 18 years. We lived across the street from the Telephone Office, and we played with Della Barkley who also lived near the Telephone Office.

I visited Vegreville in 1979 and found the house is still standing. There is another large home two doors away which was an old bank. It was moved there from another location. We used to play on the huge veranda as children.

Jimmy Westcott was a friend whose Grandma lived nearby. Her name was Mrs. Campbell. One of her daughters, Mrs. Webb, worked in the Public Library for many years. She also had a daughter named Cresha Campbell.

Jimmy and I often played on a home-built merry-go-round and sometimes looked a bit messy.

My dad was Section Foreman and we lived in the Section House for many years. My mother also ran a confectionery store near the Vegreville Observer. But I was very young then and my memories are a little dim.

On my visit in September I had the pleasure of speaking to Mr. Nikiforuk, the pharmacist, in his drugstore.

Giebelhaus, Adam by Elizabeth Giebelhaus

Adam Giebelhaus and Anna Katrina Wacker were both born in 1876, married in 1895 and emigrated from Norka, Russia, in 1899. They came with Adam's parents, his brother John G. and his sister Katherine (Kay), who still lives in Vegreville, and two children — John A. and Elizabeth (Eberhart), to the Glory Hills area north of Stony Plain.

In March, 1904, the families moved and settled south of Vegreville (in the Martins area). Because the teams could not pull the wagons in the snow, the wheels were taken off and thrown on the load and

logs were tied to the axles. Adam moved his family a mile north from his parents on the Vermilion River, via raft. The family were settled into a small log home where many things were stored in the rafters due to the lack of space and facilities. Once when the children complained about the diet Mother Anna caught some sparrows for a change.

It soon became necessary to build a larger home, so a two-storey frame house became home to the growing family. Soon it was bursting at the seams, so this house was moved and later became the home of John A. and Elizabeth Giebelhaus, and a larger frame house was built which served the family for many years, including son Christian Giebelhaus and family. The house still stands today and is occupied by the Jeffrey family who rent it from the present owner, Jim Giebelhaus.



Stack-threshing at Mr. John Wyllie's place. L. to R.: George Giebelhaus and Bill Rempis, next unknown, and last Jack White, all well-known in the district at that time. Owner of the thresher and Rumely Oil Pull tractor is John A. Giebelhaus. About 1920.

In those early years the struggle for survival was fierce and Adam spent time freighting with team from Edmonton to the Kjosness store and post office. This job required long hours for Adam and days of absence from his precious family.

However, arduous as their tasks were, they still found time to be involved in the interests of the community they were helping to build. They gave freely of their time to help organize and establish a school named Adams, because Adam had given most of the lumber and the largest number of children, and a church (Salem Reformed).

Times were very difficult. Young children helping out, fell into the river. Food was often scarce and the children tired of the bland diet of tea and potatoes; however, all survived.

Every effort was put forth on the part of both the parents and the children to conquer this new land, to survive and to progress. Of the eleven children born to this union ten are still alive at this writing. The numbers have increased to include a small united nations with in-laws who have joined hands with this great family. If Anna and Adam were here today, I'm certain that you would hear them proudly speaking of their forty-five grandchildren, eighty-four great-grandchildren and eleven great-great-grandchildren. Their descendants envelope that determination and courage which helped their forefathers to succeed. The families' influence is felt in the fields of agriculture, nursing, medicine, teaching, journalism, the arts, the ministry and missions, in the trades, in the



Lunch time. From left to right: Bill Giebelhaus, Conrad Giebelhaus, Louis Knies at the throttle and owner of the outfit, Freddie Mayer, Richard Kay. Standing below, (l. to r.) — George Albrecht, Jack Walker, George Miller — school teacher from Nova Scotia, Katie Mayer and her mother Mrs. Mayer. The gentleman next to school teacher is John Forcade and last is Mrs. Hans Mayer, owner of said farm at Old Vegreville, 1922.

clerical field and in administration, civic government and politics.

Although most of their descendants have chosen to live in Alberta, members of the family can be found across Canada from Montreal to Vancouver Island. Others spread their influence in the U.S.A. in Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, Florida and Wisconsin, while yet another lives in India.



Erecting a steel-framed windmill in 1938. Left to right — Adam Giebelhaus (well-driller), unknown, John and George Giebelhaus.

Giebelhaus, Conrad and Margaretta by Con and Peggy Giebelhaus

Conrad Giebelhaus was born at Stony Plain in 1899 where he grew up and had some schooling. In 1921 he took up farming ten miles south of Vegreville.

Margaretta also was born at Stony Plain, moved with her parents to Martins district, where she grew up and took her schooling in John Adams school.

In 1924 Conrad and Margaretta were united in marriage at the bride's home and continued on the farm till 1954. During the years on the farm they had five children: Ada, Donald, Owen, Gwen Elaine and Garry. They took their schooling in the "Ideal" School and Vegreville High School.

Conrad and Margaretta travelled extensively after selling the farm in 1954. He worked as farm help in Saskatchewan during summer, and spent winters in Arizona and California, ("where summer winters") — "God's country". We purchased a 27-foot Spartan trailer from John Lowe and pulled it with a 1946 Mercury car for several years. That car, now owned by Donald in Regina, is an antique today.

Giebelhaus, George and Adam by Con and Peggy Giebelhaus

Grandfather George Giebelhaus and his wife, Marg Nolda, arrived in Stony Plain in April, 1899, from Norka, Russia. They had three children: Adam, John and Katherine (Mrs. Kay of Vegreville). The George Giebelhaus family were pioneers in this community and helped build the first church out of logs in 1900. The family moved away from here in 1903 to Holden, Alberta. Since this time both Mr. and Mrs. Giebelhaus have died.

Adam Giebelhaus with his wife, the former Ann Katharina Wacker and two children, Mary Elizabeth and John, arrived in Stony Plain, April 1899, from Norka, Russia. Two children, Emma and Margaretta were born in Stony Plain. In 1903 the family moved to what was at that time the "Martins" district. They settled on a homestead to farm. During the many years here eight more children were born: Katharine, Christina, Henry, Clara, Mina, Christian, Pauline and Helen. All the children received schooling at "John Adams" school.

Mary Elizabeth Eberhart passed away September 10, 1976; John is now in the Good Samaritan nursing home. Emma lives in Edmonton, also Margaretta and Conrad who are in retirement in Edmonton. Katharine and Jack Dennington reside in Lacombe, Christina Nicholson in Edmonton, Henry in Bruce. Clara Haight resides in Wenatchee, Washington, Mina Giebelhaus in Edmonton, Christian and Hertha live in Camrose. Pauline and Steve Malonik farm in the Rich Valley area, northwest of Edmonton. Helen and Armin Roemer have lived in Sheboygan for several years.

Adam Giebelhaus passed away February 21, 1967.

Anna Katharine Giebelhaus passed away March 2, 1956.

Giebelhaus, John (Little John) by Margaret (Mrs. Ross) Zwierschke

In the year 1899, John Giebelhaus, with his wife Elizabeth, and their one-year-old daughter Elizabeth (Annie) decided to leave their homeland in Norka (situated on the Volga River), Russia and come to Canada.

This pioneering family came to Canada with faith in God, faith in themselves, and their fellowmen, to try and make a better life for themselves and their family.

Six more children were born in Canada to Mr. and Mrs. Giebelhaus — five sons and one daughter: John, George, Adam, Margaret, Henry and Conrad.

The goal for these pioneers was to own one of the



Home of John (Little) Gielbelhaus, built in 1917.

homesteads, which were being opened up for pioneers.

They worked as labourers for a few years, so as to be able to save enough money to buy land and machinery, and start farming.

Their first destination was Stony Plain, as other German-speaking people had settled there.

They applied for a homestead in 1902 — S.E. 14-50-15 W4. In 1903 they settled in the Martins district. Martins was the Post Office, in the countryside, where they were able to pick up their mail, this being the central point between Vegreville and Holden.

They laboured very hard, and gathered logs to build their first home, then later a barn.

One way to earn a living in the winter was to haul lumber. This was hauled from Edmonton across the ice on Beaver Lake to Holden. At one time the sleigh and horses broke through the ice and Mr. Giebelhuas almost lost his life.

Roads for travel were but trails. No railway had gone through as yet, In 1905 the Canadian Northern Railway came through Vegreville. In 1909 the Grand Trunk Line came through Holden.

There were no bridges to cross the river so they had to rely on a home-made boat in order to escape the prairie fires, which burnt rampant. Later a stone bridge was built. The bridge still exists, but is not in use.

There were few fences, so animals roamed unrestricted, and had to be hunted down at night for the milking of the cows. Often the search was unsuccessful.

Wild fruit was plentiful, such as strawberries, black currants, saskatoons, gooseberries and chokecherries. They were picked for food and often gathered to be sold for necessary staples.

Coal-oil lamps were the only light they had.

Often a potato was scooped out and filled with tallow, and lit as a candle.

They lived in a tent before the log house was built. They were plagued by mosquitoes so badly that the horses trampled down the tent. The family left for awhile, as it was impossible to battle with these insects.

Smoke smudges were always prevalent to try and ward off mosquitoes. Mosquito netting was worn over the face for protection from them and their bites.

Pioneer women worked hard and endured loneliness and trials of many kinds. When ill, no doctor was available, not even to assist in childbirth.

More machinery was purchased as the land became more productive. Prairie fires were an ever-present hazard. At times, fire-guards had to be ploughed around hay stacks to save the hay which had been stacked for feed. Several lives were lost in the fire as it would rage on, and there was no way of escape.

Eventually a threshing machine was purchased to thresh the stooks of grain from the fields. Often the threshing machine engine would whistle, as it was blown as a danger signal for fire. The machine was stopped and men dropped everything and fought the fire. It burned for days in the tall grass and dead trees, and was hard to control.

There was great satisfaction in having the threshing machine move in to thresh the harvest. Each in his own turn. Preparing meals for a crew of fourteen or more men for days was fun too, even if it meant getting up at five o'clock in the morning to prepare breakfast and other meals.

In 1917 a frame house was built to replace the log dwellings. This frame house is now lived in by a grandson, Wallace, and his family.

By this time more pioneers had moved in and settled in this same area.

These families met in various homes for Christian worship. In 1917 a church was built. They named the church Salem Evangelical Reformed Church. It was built in the Vegreville area. For many years the services were held in the German language, with regular attendance by the Giebelhaus family.

There were many joys and sorrows for this family. Making a living by mixed farming, while adjusting to many changes and overcoming hardships, was very taxing.

The family grew up and married. Annie (Elizabeth) was married to George Miller in June, 1922. They still reside in the Vegreville district, and have lived to a ripe old age. They have five children.

John is residing at the Homestead Lodge.

George was married to Mary Albrecht. Mary passed away in March, 1972 at the age of 66 years.

They had five children. George now resides in the village of Holden. He had a second marriage to Leila Dupius.

Adam was married to Dora Bublitz. They had two children. Dora passed away in March, 1961, at the age of 38 years. They resided in Fort St. John, after leaving Holden in 1956.

Margaret married Ross Zwierschke. They had one daughter Lorraine. They resided in the Holden district for 39 years and in 1974 they retired and are now residing in Vegreville.

Henry married Frieda Albrecht. They now reside in Ft. St. John, B.C. after residing in the Holden district until 1958. They had one daughter.

Con was married to Edna Pastnikoff. They lived in the Holden district until 1957. They then moved to Ft. St. John to join Adam, and went into partnership as contractors. They have both retired from their business and in 1978 moved to Camrose. They had one son, who still resides in Ft. St. John.

Giebelhaus, John and Beulah

From the small farming village of Norka, Russia, came many of the German families who settled the area midway between Vegreville and Holden. Conrad Giebelhaus arrived in 1909 to join a brother, Heinrich, and others who had come several years earlier. The promise of available farmland, and freedom from state oppression prompted Conrad to make the move with his wife, Amelia, and their children Kathrine, Johannas, Margarethe and Heinrich. The long journey by train, then ship, then train again was a hard one, especially for the mother, as seasickness, homesickness and illness prevailed throughout.

Upon arrival in the Martins district, the family was welcomed into the home of relatives and friends. Conrad, with his farming background and willingness to work, found employment with the various established settlers in the Holden area. Some land

was rented until he was able to buy 80 acres on the N.E. 34-50-15 W4 from his brother. A two-story log house was built and other log buildings were added as needed.

The family increased, too, with the arrival of Anne and George, and later Bertha. At the Adams School, three miles south, the older children began their formal education. The younger children attended the Ideal School 2½ miles to the north which was opened later. John, the eldest son, spent very little time in school as his father needed help at home.

In 1917 the Salem Reformed Church was built 14 miles south of Vegreville in the midst of the German settlement. John and his sister, Katie, were members of the first confirmation class in 1918. All of the family learned the beliefs of their church in the German language. Later English was used and the congregation joined the United Church of Canada.

In 1918 or 1919 the N½ of 35-50-15 was offered for sale by owner Barney Huyke, of Vegreville. Buyers were Henry Walker and Conrad Giebelhaus. This half-section of raw land was divided between them so that fields running from east to west were a mile long. Mr. Walker sold his portion to Gus Miller who in 1944 sold it to John. Much hard work was involved to clear and prepare the land for cropping. In 1924 a second-hand 3-wheel Case tractor, bought from a Ryley dealer, I. Lillo, was put to good use although horses were used for most of the farming operations.

A quarter of land bordering on the original 80 acres was bought. On it was a three-room frame house into which the parents and daughter moved, while the sons continued to live in the old log house. They also spent a lot of time in an old shack while brushing another half-section "back west". In 1935 a modern two-story, 8-room house was erected on the homestead. A year later a large barn was constructed by Mr. E. Eickmeyer of Vegreville.

The daughters, raised to be hard workers and good housekeepers, were always able to find employment with neighbors and relatives in town or the city. Henry and George married and the family farm was divided up. John remained at home doing most of the farming. His father continued to milk cows, raise chickens and pigs until retiring to Vegreville in 1949. Mrs. Amelia Giebelhaus died in 1956, her husband Conrad in 1959.

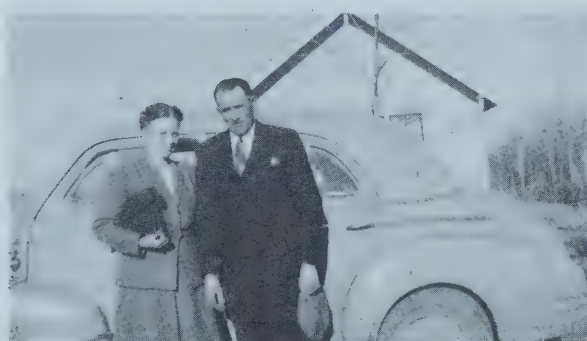
In September, 1944, the new teacher at Adams School was Beulah Hillerud from the Ryley district. Her father Hans, born in Norway, had emigrated first to Minnesota and in 1904 to Ryley, where he owned the Livery Stable for several years and then began farming. Her mother, Martha Solberg, born in South Dakota, U.S.A., came with her family to the Ryley



Game Warden Monson, on a trip from the north country with his dog team and sled about 1925.



Last day of school for Giebelhaus children! Left to right — Janice, Terry, Howard, Dennis, Philip, Ila. June 29, 1962.



John and Beulah Giebelhaus beside their 1942 Chev. Fall of 1946.

district in 1902. (More information in Beaver Tales, History of Ryley and District.)

John and Beulah were married Nov. 16, 1945, in Ryley. They took over the family homestead in 1949 where they have raised four sons and four daughters. The boys, Terry, Howard, Dennis, and Philip learned at an early age the regularity of farm chores: milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens, and cleaning eggs. One weekend they went on a starvation, non-work strike for wages. The episode passed almost unnoticed and by Monday they were back to work and eating as usual, no better or worse off. With so many brothers it was never necessary for the girls to work outside. Janice, eldest of the eight, accepted her role of "mother's helper" with housekeeping and child care. She belonged to 4-H Clothing Clubs, as did Ila, Barbara, and Arlene, the three youngest members of the family.

Over a period of 26 years, each of the children completed twelve years of education in Vegreville schools. For one school year there were seven board-



Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Giebelhaus in 1929.



A fancy means of transportation in the mid-30's.

ing the bus each morning. A lot of lunches to pack!! Gradually the flock left the nest to seek higher education and/or employment, and to establish homes of their own.

Janice, married to Jim Finlin in 1968, lives near Beaumont, Alberta. Their family consists of: Cindy, Trina, and Jimmy.

In 1969 Terry and Diane Solway were married in Cold Lake. They lived in Edmonton where Terry worked in Sheetmetal construction until moving to the farm in 1977 to take over the farming operation. Their children are Troy, Melanie, and Chloe.

Howard, a CNR employee, lives near Ardrossan with his wife Shirley (nee Chilibecki) and their children, Shelley, Noreen, and Dale.

Dennis and Shauna (Mazankowski), married in



Proud owner John Giebelhaus stands beside his new 1925 Dodge Touring. Sister Bertha is on the fender and Mother calls a word of caution from the kitchen door.

1970, have two sons, Chad and Travis. They live in Vegreville where Dennis is a salesman for Raydon Motors.

A car accident in Utah, U.S.A., claimed the life of Philip John, youngest son of John and Beulah, on April 8, 1972, at the age of nineteen.

In 1975 Ila received a B. of Ed. degree in Home Economics. She has taught in Camrose for four years.

Barbara has worked for two years in the Royal Alex Hospital's pharmacy department after taking a Pharmacist Technician course at Red Deer College.

Upon completion of this year in high school, Arlene plans to go to NAIT in the fall. Clothing design and construction are her interests.

As the children grew up, Beulah found some free time to pursue her own interests. She was a 4-H mother for the 15 years or so while the girls were in clothing clubs. She joined the Wendy Brook Women's Institute, and became a director for the Vegreville Exhibition Association. For a few years she did some substitute teaching for the County of Minburn schools, putting into practice the nearly forgotten skills learned many years before.

In the nearly 70 years since the family settled on their 80-acre piece of Alberta soil, John has spent



In the background, log barns and sheds on the Conrad Giebelhaus farm about 1920. Left to right: Conrad Giebelhaus, wife Amelia, brother Henry, wife Anna, her step-mother Mrs. Albrecht.

very little time away from it. One winter in the '30's, he travelled with Mr. and Mrs. R. Kay to Arizona via California. Many hundreds of miles have been covered, however, by attending farm auction sales. There has always been some new machinery, or tool, or piece of furniture needed, and there has always been a sale within driving distance where those things might be found. Over the years John has acquired quite a mechanical ability keeping the cars, trucks, and machinery in running order. He will always be a farmer, even in retirement.

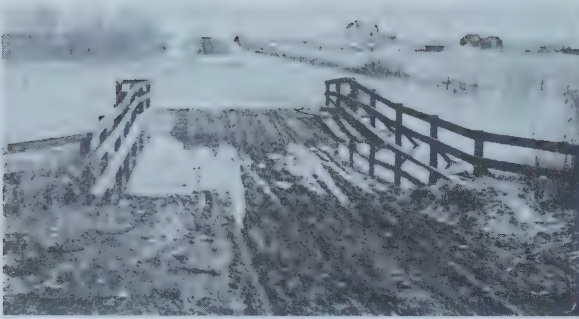
Giebelhaus, John George (known as John)

In 1903 John accompanied his parents George and Margaretha Giebelhaus, brother Adam (his wife and two children, John and Elizabeth) and sister Katherine (Kay) to the Martins district south of Vegreville where a log house and barn were erected, land cleared with an axe and broken up with a walking plough. During the first two winters, he hired himself out as a labourer to help earn money to further the family's farming operation. Wages at that time were, for the most part, very meager and the work was heavy manual labor - no such machinery and conveniences as we have today. During the winter he hauled wheat to South Edmonton by horse and sleigh, taking a route over Cooking Lake and Beaver Lake, a four-day journey and returned with loads of lumber from which the necessary new buildings were built.

On December 30, 1914, John was united in marriage with Anne Marie Deines who came from Noroka. Prior to coming to Canada her handicraft was weaving. She also enjoyed singing. In 1913, at the age of 21, she with several of her cousins came to Calgary where one of her uncles lived. Here she found employment in a commercial laundry, operating a mangle, until her marriage to John the following year. John and Anna Marie lived with his parents for seven years. Here three children were born — William Adam, October 18, 1915, Lydia, December 26, 1917, and Leah, June 17, 1920. John filed on his own homestead beside his father's in 1905. John and his father built up a three-hundred cow herd. They pastured their cattle mainly on open range which was readily available in those days. Hay for winter feeding was cut by horse mower and stacked by hand. They built a large hip roof barn which in later years was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

John helped with the building of the Martins Reformed Church in 1917 which became the nucleus of their life. Their great faith sustained them during many trials.

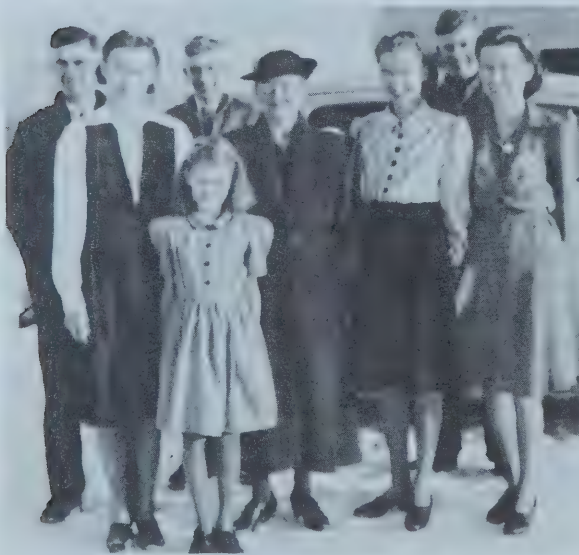
In December, 1921, John, Anna Marie and their three children moved to their new farm located on



John George Giebelhaus family home during the flood, 1940's.



John G. Giebelhaus' home place — NE28-50-15W4, 1963. Now owned by youngest son John D. and family.



Mrs. John Giebelhaus and family. Left to right: Wm. A., Lydia, John D., Martha, Leah, Dan and Bertha, 1942.

28-50-15-W4, Vegreville. Here four more children were born: Bertha, April 24, 1922; Daniel, January 23, 1926; John David, September 29, 1928; and Martha Esther, October 9, 1934.



Grandma and children. Mrs. John G. Giebelhaus and daughter Martha and son-in-law Francis Everett with the grandchildren. Left to right: Lloyd Giebelhaus, Linda Roberts, Eric Giebelhaus, Allan and Brian Roberts, Kenneth, Anita and Debbie Roberts, 1960.



Wm. A. Giebelhaus with a 14' single disk pulled by 8 horses abreast. Approximately 1925.

Pioneering began all over again. Land had to be cleared, breaking had to be done, roots had to be picked. Poverty is the mother of invention and accomplishment — no job was too big! Wheat was hauled by team to the Vegreville flour mill to be ground into flour. Cows were milked; butter was churned and traded at the local grocery store for groceries (a very competitive business since most farmers' wives around traded butter or eggs for groceries too). With no refrigeration, meat during the summer months was a problem. Pork was cured but beef resulted in "beef rings". Several farmers joined the ring. Each week one farmer would butcher and supply the rest with fresh meat until each had taken his turn. In this way fresh meat was on hand at all times. Necessary buildings were erected. Rainy days were spent in the blacksmith shop where John set up his forge and anvil. Here he sharpened plough shares, repaired machinery, made and repaired and oiled harnesses. Great pride was taken in his horses. They were always well fed and groomed. Soles of shoes were made of leather in those days, a job for rainy days. Sheep were kept and sheared. The wool



John G. and Anna Marie Giebelhaus wedding, 1914.

was made into quilts and some was spun into wool and knit into socks. This was done in the evening while the family sat around the table which was brightened with a coal oil lamp. Then came a luxury — the Aladdin lamp. It had one big mantle and the light was so bright that many a youngster, when no one was looking, was tempted to touch the mantle which would crumble like powder. If a fly flew against it, it would break. It was very precious.

Grain was hauled to the elevator in the winter with a team and sleigh. The summer was too busy for that job. In 1928 he purchased his first one-ton truck, an International. What a revolution! He hauled his grain in the summer and until the roads blocked with the first snowfall. Shortly after they moved to their own farm. He bought his first tractor, a Case, and then the Case threshing machine. The tractor wheels had lugs on them. There were no rubber tires in those days. The vibration kept the operator wide awake. The sad part of the tractor was that it never got tired as did the horses so we children in the summer would go to sleep with the roar of the tractor and wake up to the same tune. He did all his own breaking with it and

never seemed to tire. He enjoyed putting new land into production. There were no weed sprays in those days but there were weed inspectors who would condemn the land if it became weedy. He always used the latest and best methods of farming. If a few weeds showed they were either cut down or picked by hand. His fields were as well tended as a garden. He was so proud of his land.

Roads were not graded up as they are now so with the first snowfall the car was put up on jacks and blocked until the spring. He hauled coal from the Ryley coal mine during the winter with the team. It was a two-day trip. He wore a heavy buffalo fur coat and walked behind the team and sleigh for many miles to keep warm. On real cold trips Mom would heat a rock in the oven. It would be wrapped carefully and put in the bottom of the sleigh. This was used as a foot warmer. It kept warm for many miles. He carried his lunch in his pocket which often became quite frost bitten before he ate it.

During the hungry thirties many hungry passers-by would stop in for a meal. They were never turned away. Many of these would be Indian people with large families who were hungry and very poorly dressed. First off they would give them a bag of flour, some meat and eggs and then provide them with warm clothing. Many times the children were left with only the clothes they were wearing. Then the sewing machine would buzz all night long with Mother sewing and remaking clothes for the children to wear the next day. Often these people would set up their tents in the pasture and camp during the summer and return to their reservations in the fall. John would often hire the men to pick roots or do some brushing.

When sugar was very scarce during the war years, bees were kept and very delicious dishes were made with honey. Anna Marie raised a beautiful garden and took great pride in her flowers. John built an ice house 5' x 5' and about 12' deep. He cut huge blocks of ice out of the Vermilion River and dropped them into the hole and covered them with sawdust. The ice lasted until fall. Cream, butter and meat were kept in the ice-well. Homemade ice cream was a real specialty, especially on a very hot day.

Cattle were an important part in their farming operation. After being hauled out three years in succession in the thirties, feed became very scarce so the cattle were driven to Hastings Lake.

In 1939 they built a new home equipped with modern facilities and electricity and in 1941 a new round-roofed barn with a hay mow was built.

They had many friends. Sunday afternoons were spent in visiting or being visited. Many an evening was spent with friends reminiscing about the by-gone

days. They talked of their families and friends whom they left in Russia, never to see them again.

On June 21, 1942, after a brief illness, John passed away at the age of 59 years. The family continued to make their home on the farm. Anna Marie passed away on September 2, 1963, at the age of 71 years.

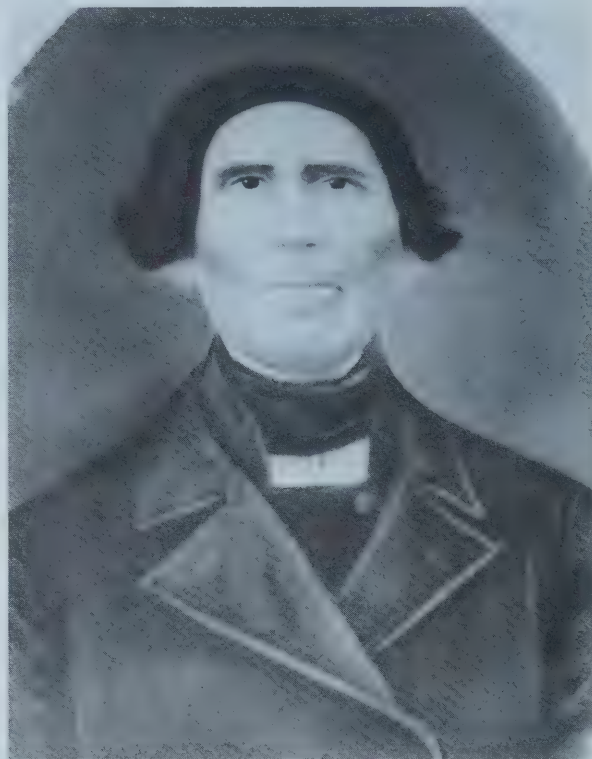
All seven children are married and have families. Bill, Dan and John have farms south of Vegreville with John D. residing on the home farm. Bill married Esther Schwindt; Dan married Elizabeth Krieger; John D. married Katie Bierman; Lydia married Henry Roemer and they live in Tripp, South Dakota, Leah married Rueben Schwindt and they live near Spruce Grove; Bertha married Joe Roberts and they live near Wainwright and Martha married Francis Everett and they live in Wainwright.

Giebelhaus, John George (known as George)

It was approximately 1760 when George Giebelhaus's ancestors were among thousands of Germans from Hesson, Germany, who had responded to the invitation of Empress Catherine II of Russia, to settle and develop the Volga region. These settlers were offered land, free use of their own language, freedom of religion and as citizens of Russia would enjoy all the privileges of the country.

George was the son of Christian and Katrinliz Giebelhaus, nee Pfennig, born March 8, 1853, in Norka, Russia. He had three brothers Conrad, Adam, John and one sister Christina.

On January 29, 1874, George married Margaretha Nolde, born December 28, 1852. This marriage was blessed with three children, Adam born September 18, 1876, John born September 2, 1882, and Katherine born December 17, 1886. In February, 1899, George and his family left Norka to come to Canada, arriving in Edmonton, Alberta, sometime in April. They were welcomed on their arrival to Edmonton by his brother Adam with a team



Christian Giebelhaus, Norka, Russia, 1800's.



Mr. and Mrs. John **George** Giebelhaus and children Katherine (Kay) and son John G. Early 1900's.



First home of John **George** Giebelhaus family, south of Vegreville, 1901.

of horses and double-box wagon. They crossed the Saskatchewan River during spring break; the horses walked on ice bottom and waded through deep water. The horses were then rested and fed where now stands the Alberta College. They then moved on to their first place of residence in the Glory Hills district, north of Stony Plain. Here George purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. Together with his sons they built a log house, log barn, fences and dug a well.

In 1900 they helped build the first Reformed Church in the Glory Hills district which was made from logs. During this time homesteads were opened in the Martins district south of Vegreville, Alberta. In 1901 he took up a homestead there, and during the years 1903-04, the family moved, joining other settlers already there.

These pioneers endured many hardships. It has been said that the first seeds planted were bitter tears. It was through their prayers and faith in God that brought them through the many difficult times. The Christian faith was central in their lives. Morning and evening devotions for the whole family were practised. An important part in the lives of these early settlers was the gathering together in different homes to read and study scriptures. These gatherings became the nucleus that formed the Martins congregation. In between the minister's visits the congregation would continue to meet; often George would either preach a sermon or read from a sermon book. Salem Church was then built in 1917. George was a member of the consistory for many years.

His wife Margaretha passed away in 1927. George later re-married the former Mrs. Marie Nolde (Heckman) who was a widowed sister-in-law. George passed away in 1939 and his second wife in 1944. They are all laid to rest in the Martins cemetery south of Vegreville.

Gnyra, Mike and Elizabeth by M. Tomyn and M. Gnyra

Mike Gnyra was born at Innisfree, Alberta, on August 19, 1932. He is the son of William (1895-1978) and Sadie (nee Melnyk) Gnyra (1900-1957). In 1912, at the age of seventeen, William Gnyra had emigrated to Canada from the Village of Butsiw, District of Peremyshl, Post Office of Medika, in Western Ukraine. The family was well-off, according to village standards at the time, but William, being the adventurous type, decided to seek his fortune in a distant land.

William Gnyra left Europe from the port of Hamburg, Germany, for his voyage to Canada. The ocean trip took about eight days. Fog and seasickness added to the discomforts and hazards of ocean travel. One



Wm. and Sadie Gnyra, 1947.



M. Gnyra family; Mike, Elizabeth (Liz), and daughters Lorna and Bernice, 1979.

must remember that at that time the unthinkable happened: in 1912 the unsinkable ocean liner, the Titanic, sank on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic, with a loss of about 1500 lives. This tragedy was fresh in everybody's mind. The ship on which William sailed had over 2000 passengers. The ship docked at Halifax.

The trip by train across Canada was a welcome change. However, there were places where the water squirted from between the ties as the train passed over. Evidently the railroad grade was built on softer

ground. On the train the passengers had to have their own food, which they could buy when the train stopped at the stations.

In Alberta, William Gnyra worked at several jobs before settling down. He worked on the extra gang (railroad), in the mines and on farms.

In 1916 he purchased a farm — N.E. 36-51-10 W 4. In 1918 he married Sadie, a local girl of another pioneer family, Fred and Annie Melnyk.

William and Sadie were blessed with seven children: William Jr. married Nancy Fedyna. They have five children. The couple is farming the homestead north-east of Innisfree. Olga married Fred Tompson. They have three children and are retired at Kaslo, B.C. Peter married Phyllis Baxall. The couple has one son. Peter is office manager of a retail firm in Edmonton. Victoria married Peter Weremy. They have three children and live on the farm close to William Jr. Jeanette married Harold Hill. They have two children and live in Edmonton. Mike married Elizabeth Nidzielski. They have two daughters and are in the jewellery business in Vegreville. Elizabeth married Howard Rancier. They have four children and live in Grande Prairie.

In 1945 William Gnyra moved his family to Vegreville to provide his children with better education because of a partial school closure on the farm. He still worked on the farm at Innisfree.

In 1949 the family moved back to the farm and lived there till most of the children grew up, got married, and left home.

William and Sadie retired from the farm in 1954, moved to Vegreville and lived there till they passed away, Sadie in 1957 and William in 1978.

Mike Gnyra, the youngest son, took his education at Bruno and Vegreville. Because of his great interest in cattle, in 1949 he won the grand championship for his Hereford calf in the Junior Beef Competition at Innisfree.

On November 4, 1954, Mike married Elizabeth "Liz" Nidzielski of Innisfree. The couple was blessed with two daughters. Bernice completed her High School in Vegreville and is presently employed by the provincial government in Edmonton. Lorna, the younger daughter, is completing grade ten at the Vegreville Composite High School.

Mike Gnyra has had a checkered career. His first stint was farming, residence being on S.E. 2-52-10 W 4. Here the young couple farmed for five years, giving much attention to raising good beef cattle. Mike was the director and organizer for the Rural Electrification and the Rural Telephone Associations. Being a restless and aggressive individual, he decided to try something else. In 1959 he sold his

farm and effects and moved to Vegreville. He has carried on several business ventures.

Mike was a partner with Twin Lake Construction for three years, a firm that did a lot of road-gravelling and brush-cutting.

In 1962 he entered the jewellery business, and has been connected with it ever since, a total of seventeen years. For approximately three years he was a shareholder of a jewellery store in St. Paul and for a short time, a shareholder of an automatic transmission firm in Edmonton. Until recently he was a salesman for a monument firm in Edmonton. Communitywise, Mike has served on the Vegreville Catholic School Board for six years and on the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish Council for six years.

For many years Liz has been helping out in their jewellery store, General Watch and Clock, Ltd., besides attending to her numerous duties at home.

Mike and Liz Gnyra have found Vegreville to be a fine place to live and work.

Pioneering in Alberta

by Wilmer H. Gold, Youbou, B.C.

**Courtesy Vegreville Observer, November 10, 1977
ED. Note:**

The following story had been sent to the Observer by W. H. Gold who is a photographer of some note. He is the son of the Rev. W. F. Gold, one of the first, if not the first, Presbyterian ministers to serve in Vegreville.

Father, Rev. W. F. Gold, must have been born with a spirit of adventure; he landed in Canada with his parents, sisters and brothers about the year 1860, as a child; the family settled in London, Ont., at that time known as "London in the Bush." Here he attained manhood, clerking in one of the leading stores but the work became irksome; his immediate boss became too demanding. "One day," Father recounted, "I just walked out never to return."

However, a certain young lady had caught his eye; she worked in the same store's Chinaware department, decorating fancy cups and saucers with gold leaf. In her later years my Mother confessed to me: "Your father lingered in our department — courting me." Mother hinted that the boss took a rather dim view of any malingering.

During the year 1885 when the Canadian Pacific Railroad steel reached the Pacific Coast, Father in search of greener pastures bought a CP Rail ticket, boarded a colonist passenger coach, finally arriving at Gastown (Vancouver), then by ferry across to Victoria — his destination.

My Father obtained employment in a house-furnishings store, named Wieler Brothers, on Government St.; Father worked and saved his money for

several years, built a modern home, sent to London for the lady of his choice, married her in the City of Victoria and settled down. They hired a Chinese houseboy by the name of Bong to do the house chores while Mother took up painting landscapes on canvas, sea shells or rocks; Father sang in a choir.

But Father felt an urge to become a Missionary of the Gospel; he found the Pacific Coastal climate enervating and relaxing: "One could go to sleep standing up," he sometimes said. Soon he was learning the Chinese language phonetically; he hoped to be sent to China as a Missionary. During the later years he would at times intone realistically the "Lord's Prayer" in Chinese. But a wife and a growing family caused him to change his plans; instead he would serve the Church of his choice in Canada.

For six months out of every year we lived in Winnipeg while Father attended Manitoba Theological College; the inter-six months were spent on Mission Field such as: Langley Prairie, Nicola Valley and Salmon Arm — all in British Columbia. During the two years we spent at Salmon Arm, Father supervised and assisted in the building of a Church and Manse. At the turn of the century, Salmon Arm was merely a whistle-stop town consisting of six houses, a hotel, two stores, a one-room school and a Finnish bath house.

The Church choir consisted of one person, namely Billy Murray, who accompanied the singing of hymns on his violin every Sunday — except when he had celebrated on Saturday nights. Mother taught Sunday School Classes; Mother was a forceful teacher. "Liquor and playing cards were the work of the devil and led the way to Eternal Hell-Fire and Damnation" . . . Hell was a terrible place. Mother was the President of the Ladies Aid Society which met

regularly; they made "crazy" patterned, multi-colored quilts which were given to the poor people. The Sunday School held an annual picnic in "McGuire's Grove", while the boys swam in Shuswap Lake.

After a period of two years spent at Salmon Arm, Father decided that he was hemmed in, the surrounding mountains were confining — the "Last West" was calling loud and clear. On a September day our family boarded an east-bound CPR train, carrying our personal belongings and little else, travelling light, our furniture and house furnishings to follow, also my Coach dog named "Bobs" after Boer War General Lord Roberts; we changed trains at Calgary — Edmonton bound.

Newspaper accounts read: Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba fast filling up with immigrants from the British Isles, fair-haired families from Scandinavia, sturdy groups of Galicians wearing sheep-skin coats with the fur turned inside; from the Central Western United States colonists arrived by the train loads, together with horses, cattle and agricultural machinery — to disembark at rail-head; others came in covered wagons, all lured on by the promise of cheap farm land, or "free" homesteads.

Any male person over 18 years of age could, if he chose, bet the Canadian Government \$10.00 that he would live on a homestead (160 acres) for six months out of three consecutive years; cultivate 15 acres, build a livable house, etc. If he failed in his commitment he was liable to not only lose his homestead but his ten-dollar deposit as well.

Our family left the train at Strathcona, then the terminus for Edmonton-bound passengers. We crossed the Saskatchewan River on a ferry located on Walter's Flats, then found ourselves deposited in the new Queen's Hotel, Jasper Avenue east, operated by Bertha Hetu, a hotel then under construction. In order to get to certain upstairs rooms, one had to navigate a plank walk which swayed dangerously underfoot. Viewed from our hotel room, Edmonton streets were a sea of mud, due to recent rains.

Next day dawned clear and fine when we boarded a horse-drawn stage coach, with baggage, bound for Fort Saskatchewan Town. A young man accompanied us on our journey regaling us with tales of his encounters with fierce Indians and wild animals. When I questioned father regarding the veracity of his stories, Father said, "You must take what he said with a grain of salt; he's been drinking!" Come to think of it I had seen him when I peeped into the hotel bar.

We stopped overnight at Fort Saskatchewan, then next morning boarded a democrat drawn by a team of horses, bound for the eastern shore of Beaver Lake,



Duncan McCallum's sod-covered, log house located at Beaver Lake (P.O.) 70 miles east of Edmonton where Golds spent the winter of 1902-03. They arrived from Salmon Arm, via Calgary and Edmonton, but it was months before furniture arrived. Mr. Gold made beds out of rough boards; other few furnishings were makeshift. Shown here Rev. Wm. F. Gold in his coonskin coat, dog "Bobs" and Gordon Gold.

some sixty miles distant, leaving behind us our raconteur of tall tales; I was sorry to say good-bye to him . . . but perchance I would surely find adventure myself in this New Land of promise . . . high adventure indeed!

That afternoon we crossed Beaver River where some years later a friend, John Grey, and his brother launched their heavy-laden freight canoe, floated down river, following the North Saskatchewan River eastward, then threading their way through a maze of watercourses and lakes, arriving finally at Hudson's Bay where they spent the winter hunting and trapping. Surely a test of endurance and fortitude, braving the elements and rapid water with six inches of freeboard, camping and living off the country — mostly.

On our journey to Beaver Lake we stopped overnight at a Galician's farm house; we slept in an adjoining room on a hard mud floor, heaped with straw and blanket covering. In the early morning hours, hens appeared in the open door, roosters serenaded us while several pigs grunted a greeting.

The interior of the house was whitewashed and clean; icons decorated the walls, nearby hung framed colorful reproductions of scenes and figures of religious significance. Adjoining one house wall we discovered a huge oven used for baking bread; on top of the oven an area sufficient in size, served as a place to spread their bed, thus utilizing the heat from the oven beneath. Log houses such as this one were

covered with wattle, both inside and outside, then plastered with mud; the roof thatched with straw, comfortable and warm in winter, cool in summer, replicas of course, of farm dwellings found in their native homeland of Galicia.

Arriving at McCallum's place we were directed to our future home: a one-room log house with a sod roof; we were to learn later that the sod roof leaked rather badly during heavy rainstorms and long afterwards. Household furnishings were few and meagre. Father, being a handyman of sorts, built two beds from boards, straw being utilized in the making of mattresses.

Mother, as ever, devoted to the physical and spiritual needs of her family, struggled along with the benefit of the barest household or kitchen necessities, but Mother learned how to feed and coax an old iron cook stove into baking delectable bread, as well as cooking meats, stews and soup.

McAllister operated a small general store a couple of miles distant where local farmers could buy necessities; McAllister would accept muskrat skin I traded for merchandise, allowing ten cents for each muskrat skin. McAllister loved to tease Scottish-accented lasses who patronized his store. "Och . . . My . . . what have ye got in your basket, lassie . . . eggs, butter?" Or, "How is your mon, Duncan, this braw moonlight nicht?"

Later fall came bringing memorable golden sunsets; game birds were abundant flying to every point



Two-storey log house located on the farm of Ed Dennis 2½ miles west of Old Vegreville P.O. — two general stores and a farm implement agency. Here Golds spent the summer and winter of 1903-04. The person seated on the wagon and driving the team of horses could be Jim, youngest son of Ed Dennis — owner of the house situated on the 160-acre farm.



Five-yoke ox team breaking virgin sod on the farm of Mr. Gibson, located on farm 2½ miles east of Lavoy. Alex A. Cruikshank operating the 24-inch breaking plow. Early 1900's.

of the compass. Mornings prairie chickens decorated straw stacks, trees, barns and houses, talking to each other. Partridge were commonly seen; while the large slough, nearby, dotted with muskrat houses by the score, was literally black with ducks of every kind, grebes and lesser waterfowl.

At the turn of the century, annual precipitation on Beaver Lake was extremely high; during decades of "wet years" literally hundreds of thousands of geese, flying in V-formation, stopped over on Beaver Lake to feed and rest on their migratory flight south to spend the winter. "A hunter's Paradise."

Frank Walker who treked across the Prairie from Winnipeg during the 1870's, settled on land over a mile from Beaver Lake; years later he was joined by J. C. Morrison; they formed a partnership; eventually their home became a half-way stopping place; a large barn was built to accommodate travellers. Bathgate Post Office was established here. J. C. Morrison (who in later years became my good friend) like so many of the oldtimers, was dependent on wild game for fresh meat supply; during late fall season each year Morrison frequented the Beaver Lake flyways of the great flocks of Canada Greys and Snow Geese at Beaver Lake; armed with his 10-gauge shotgun his

larder was well supplied with wildfowl come freeze-up time.

Henry Deby arrived at Beaver Lake with his son in 1891, followed by his wife and other family members several years later. Henry died during 1931.

Henry Deby, his wife and family who chose to shun the refinements of civilization, left their native Belgium, where Deby was the Professor of English at a University, to settle on a farm not far from Beaver Lake. Henry's farm was known in the community as the "Cabbage Patch;" his specialty was gardening. He grew all manner of vegetables to maturity such as, cantelopes, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, though he did have a green house. Hardy strains of crab apple trees flourished

In his later years he wrote a weekly column for the Vegreville Observer Newspaper, a column spiced with wit and humor and news happenings. Father once told Deby, "Your liberty ends where my nose begins!" Laughingly Deby replied, "What can you do if I punch it?" When our family visited with the Deby's, good conversation continued on far into the night. Deby's wife who spoke French fluently chatted away in her native tongue, regardless of the fact that none of us were bilingual.



One-room house located on Gold's 160-acre homestead, N.E. quarter of section 36-51-13, West of 4th M., built by Dad William, Wilmer and Gordon. Tar paper and vertical boards on roof — note tin stovepipe; tin stovepipes were the bane of mother's life; they usually caught fire. Three-horse outfit pictured is breaking prairie sod to form a fire guard around the house — later a prairie fire surrounded the home (at night). Shown here (l. to r.): Gordon and Margaret seated on beam of the plow. Mr. McDonald is holding plow handles and Rev. Wm. Gold driving the outfit, 1904-05.

Martin Jacobson (father of surviving Ben Jacobson) and family arrived in 1904 from North Dakota; they shipped their livestock and belongings by CPR Railroad to Wetaskiwin. During the following mild winter, Martin, accompanied by his brother John and a cousin, lived in a tent while they constructed homes and farm buildings at Beaver Lake. Ben Jacobson, the surviving son of Martin Jacobson, lives on the original "old homestead"; nearly every year Ben steams up the traction engine belonging to the Case threshing outfit bought in the year 1911.

Winter came; it snowed heavily; Father bought a driving team of horses named Babe and Tony, complete with harness and two strings of sleigh bells as well as a cutter and a coon skin coat. On occasion the family bundled up and went for a sleigh ride in the keen frosty air to visit neighbors, attend church services held in the one-room log school house, or to call at McAllister's store for groceries — that was an occasion.

When Father came into our log house from stabling the team of horses, Mother sometimes complained about the "horsy aroma". "Father," she said, "your coonskin coat smells terrible of the stable." On real cold days when Father came home, he would be busy for a few minutes thawing icicles collected on his handle-bar moustache. When Father drank tea, his huge moustache was sure to get into the tea in the tea cup, then he would have to suck the tea out of his moustache, making sounds. Once Father shaved his handle-bar moustache right off. "Oh Father," Mother remarked, "you look naked!"

Finally our furniture and other household things arrived; most had to be stored but Mother was overjoyed; Bobs my dog came, too — was I happy!

Springtime! The Church's home Mission Board decided to move Father to a new field of endeavor; namely, Old Vegreville, consisting of two general stores, an implement agency, Post Office and a school, about one hour's drive distant by horse and buggy.

Our new home proved to be a two-storey affair, of



Portrait of Gold Family: Rev. Wm. F. Gold, Mrs. Margaret Gold, Wilmer, Gordon and Margaret, 1904.

log construction with a shingle roof that did not leak, located two miles west of Old Vegreville. Mother was delighted, furniture was uncrated, carpets appeared on the floors, lace curtains, white in color, were hung on the windows; all of us once again enjoyed the luxury of sleeping on real mattresses in our own beds.

The summer months were hot. Prairie water gave us dysentery; we hoped and prayed that we would die — but we didn't. On a certain day father drove the horse and buggy up to our back door to announce that he had brought with him a galvanized wash tub filled with jack fish that he and a fellow parishioner had speared with pitch forks in a stream tributary to Beaver Lake. Mother surveyed the tub of fish, threw up her arms in desperation and said loudly, "What can I do with them?" But Father had a ready solution; from somewhere he obtained a wooden tub, a quantity of salt with which he made a brine solution, filled the tub — thus were the fish salted down.

New settlers pouring into Alberta were taking up available homesteads, or buying land, quite often a hundred or more miles from railhead, influenced by the promise of two trans-continental railroads being built, soon to span the prairie. It was the year of the World Exposition held in St. Louis, Missouri, USA; people sang the popular song entitled: "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet Me at the Fair!"

Land! Land! That was the cry on everyone's lips. Father must have a homestead; he knew where there were open quarter-sections, east of Lavoy, Alberta. Father filed on the N.E. quarter-section 36-51-13 West of the 4th Meridian. The countryside at that time was mostly open, little was fenced, road allowances were seldom improved and ill-defined; wagon tracks meandered across the virgin prairie, keeping to the higher ground, avoiding sloughs, swamps or willow and poplar bluffs.

In the early spring or fall months, during the dry weather, prairie fires were an ever-present danger to travellers, settlers, animal and bird life — both wild and tame. Driven by a strong wind, prairie fires have been known to travel about as fast as a horse could run.

Next summer Father bought a large wagon-load of poorly sawn local lumber; boards were of uneven thickness and varied in width; windows and doors freighted in from Edmonton were also hauled to the homestead. After the house was framed, Father, my younger brother and myself did most of the work without extra help even to shingling the roof.

Father was a busy man; during the first six months improving the homestead he became involved in the building of a church and manse in the town of "New Vegreville" (Old Vegreville had moved over to the

"New"), where for two consecutive years our family spent the winter months, returning to the homestead each summer for a period of six months to fulfill homestead regulation requirements.

Father contracted for the breaking of fifteen acres of virgin prairie land for the summer for the sum of three dollars and fifty cents per acre, fire guards were plowed around our new home and small barn. It was an event when Father and I visited a neighbor living to the north-east, where we were fascinated watching Alec Cruikshank's five-yoke ox-team pulling a 24-inch heavy-duty breaking plow, turning over the prairie sod — plowing deep. Later we drove to Sick Man Lake to inspect a small threshing machine, powered by a seven-team horse-power outfit, on Dinwoodie's farm. Father made photographs of breaking land and threshing with his new Century camera.

Lucky that we had had a fire guard plowed around our buildings, for one night, late in the fall, when father was absent, a prairie fire came and surrounded us, skirted the plowed land and raced away eastward over the hills. Mother, who awakened in the half-light of early morning, smelled smoke, dressed hurriedly, left our house, ran across rough, newly plowed fire guard protecting our buildings and haystack, when she tripped and fell full length. Mother was heavy with child six months or more pregnant; Mother returned to our house, awakened me, and at my bedside sought comfort, voicing her fears, "What if I lose my baby," she cried. I was Mother's first-born child; I did my best to appease her fears, but I was badly frightened, too. I did not want anything to happen to my Mother. Months later though Mother gave birth to a bouncing, healthy baby boy.

Father really never pretended to be a farmer, but he was willing to turn his hand to whatever task was at hand: stooking wheat sheaves, making haycocks, or loading hay onto a hayrack, or stacking hay on Dry River bottom land where a small stream trickled along our west and northern border. One day sister Margaret lay on top of a hayrack load of hay when Father unknowingly tossed his hay fork upwards into the load of hay, the steel tines striking her in the face; miraculously she was not marked or hurt. We staked out the boundary lines of the homestead, drove in willow fence posts with a sledge hammer, later stringing, tightening and stapling two strands of barbed wire, completely enclosing our farm. On Sunday we had a day off when Father preached at Vegreville or at Avon School several miles to the south-west.

Father bought a small walking plow; he would save money breaking land with his team of driving horses; he had me hitch the team to the plow, explaining, "We will practice on the narrow strip of virgin



Guy Wright, New Vegreville, pictured with his 1904 Indian motorcycle. This motorcycle was bought by Wilmer H. Gold, 1910, author of story PIONEERING IN ALBERTA. No doubt the first motorcycle to appear in New Vegreville. House in background is present location of Dr. Krolczyk's dental office.

sod twenty rods in length joining the two northern fields," then in crop. I was directed to drive to keep the team in check while Father concentrated holding onto the plow handles as the plowshare knifed into the sod. The team unaccustomed to pulling a load became fractious. Father lost control of the plow, I could not hold the team, the plow jumped into the air, careened madly behind fast running horses, strips of turf flew through the air when momentarily the plow dug into the turf. At the end of the field we stopped for consultation. Father said, "I think we are trying to plow too deep; let's set this coulter wheel on the plow down so that we will plow a shallower furrow!" Agreed! We reset the coulter wheel down and started back down the land hopefully, but it was no use; the team ran at a fast trot, the plow skimmed and sliced off high spots in the virgin sod; bits of sod flew through the air in our wake.

During the three happy eventful summers we spent on the homestead, there was an unwritten law that we would do no unnecessary work on Sundays or rainy days; I looked forward to rainy days — naturally. On such days Ted, the neighbor's boy, and I were free to explore Twin Lakes, one-half mile east of our farm; we collected bird's eggs (one from a nest) from practically every local native bird, except Sand Hill Crane, Bittern, Swan, Geese, Grebe and Loon — they nested farther afield. I still prize my boyhood egg collection.

In spare time I made myself a canoe, nailing barrel staves to a keel to serve as ribs, covering them with light one-quarter inch wood sheeting to cover the ribs and to conform to the shape of the canoe; then the canoe frame was covered with heavy canvas, coats of linseed oil and paint made the canoe absolutely waterproof. Ted and I soon discovered that the

canoe was not wide enough across the beam, it tipped frequently shipping gallons of water; eventually we learned not to stand up while canoeing.

Ted and I spent many days together hunting game birds; he carried an old, long-barreled muzzle loading gun which he reloaded regularly from his powder horn (estimating the size of the charge), then a wad of newspaper; finally pouring in a load of bird shot, another wad of newspaper and a final tamping with the gun rod. Sometimes when he pulled the trigger he winced and complained of the recoil, "Kicks like a mule, guess I put in too heavy of a load," but he killed many ducks — mostly at close range.

I had an old twelve-gauge hammer-shot gun and loaded my own shells with smokeless Dupont powder and various sized shot. It was really a great day when I shot my first grey goose on the wing, in a bay on the shore of the southern Twin Lake, using Triple A sized shot. Yes, I sneaked up close to a sitting flock.

On a lovely summer morning, through our telescope, I could see on the horizon, more than a mile south, teams of horses and mules pulling scrapers and graders busy building the railroad grade for the Trans-Continental Canadian Northern Railway. Father drove brother Gordon and me over one day; we had our mid-day meal in a large tent with the contractor and his crew of workers. Immediately before noon the mule teams commenced "hee-hawing," they knew when it was time to quit. I can recall watching the cook, or was it the sookie, raising a whole quarter of beef forty feet in the air by block and tackle attached to a vertical pole; he explained, "That is the way to keep flies away from our meat supply."

One day, months later, out south, we saw black smoke belching from what turned out to be a railroad locomotive — the steel laying gang had arrived. Father drove us over again. Fascinated we watched a whole train of flat cars, loaded with steel rails and railroad ties. Men driving horse-drawn wagons loaded down with railroad ties drove ahead, distributing ties on the completed railroad grade, followed by sixteen to twenty men who grappled with steel tongs lengths of steel rails issuing from rollers on either side of loaded railway flat cars. The steel rails aligned on the ties were spaced, bolted together and spiked to the ties; at a given signal the whole train moved forward to repeat the operation through the day.

The Church's Home Mission Board had decided to move Father once again, so on a memorable fall day in November we loaded our household effects and personal belongings onto a wagon equipped with a hayrack; brother Gordon and I hitched up the ox team and drove straight west on the north boundary

line of the homestead heading for Tofield, Alberta, stopping over at Morrison and Walker's half-way house, later to become Bathgate Post Office. Father, Mother and sister Margaret had left the day previously by horse and buggy for Tofield.

Father had sold the homestead for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars cash. Alas, care-free happy days, apparently all good things must come to an end!

Tofield, in those days, was in the process of moving from Old Tofield, about one-half mile, to a new townsite located on the Trans-Continental Grand Trunk Railroad, forty odd miles east of Edmonton, Alberta.

Father was a dedicated Presbyterian Minister of the gospel, accustomed to hard work, hardship and privation, driving the prairie roads, fighting hordes of mosquitoes in summer and suffering frost bites in winter. Father seldom complained. Since there was no manse at Tofield, father supervised the building of one. Years previously when stationed at Salmon Arm and Vegreville, he had pioneered building both a church and manse at each town, assisted by a help-mate wife. Now he hoped to settle down and provide an education for his growing family.

These early pioneers sought neither vain glory nor a rich monetary reward; they were a breed apart.

Goodland, Alec and Frances by Frances (Volk) Goodland

In October of 1923 — 24 Mother, Dad (Mr. and Mrs. J. Volk) and 4 of the younger ones of the family, Julia, myself, Martha and Tony, left Burdett, Alberta.

Mother and Dad shipped all our belongings to Daysland, Alberta; from there we moved everything by teams to a farm near Holden, Alberta. Two of my brothers, Joe and Frank, joined us there. The other two brothers, one of them John, went to Tacoma

Wash, U.S.A. and the other one, Steve, went to Carmangay, Alberta. We stayed on that farm until March, then we moved to the Vegreville area to the J. J. Stanton farm S.E. of Vegreville for 4 years. My sister Martha and brother Tony and myself attended the Ridge Park School. Later we moved to the Dr. Brown farm N.E. of Vegreville, and a few years later to the Harry Dean place.

Alec Goodland came from England to Ogema, Saskatchewan, and in 1930 came to Vegreville.

We got married in 1935 and came north to Good-



Alec Goodland on his horse, 1934.



Left to right: Frances Goodland (Volk), Tony Volk, Julia Young (Volk), taken at Harry Dean farm, 1934.



Left to right: Martha Theroux (Volk), Mary Eva Volk (mother), Frances Goodland (Volk) and Tony Volk, 1920's.



On Stanton farm, southeast of Vegreville — left to right: Julia Young (Volk), Frank Volk, Frances Goodland (Volk), 1928.



Joseph Volk, 1934.

win, Alberta, which was our post office at that time. Now it is DeBolt, Alberta. We have one married daughter, Mary-Ann, and 2 grandsons, Curtis and Shane. Alec passed away in 1967 and my son-in-law, Lee Groves, passed away in 1978.

I still live on the farm.

Goodwin, Dr. A. H.

by Lillian Walker

Edmonton's first dentist and an old-timer of the Vegreville District.

My father, Dr. A. H. Goodwin was born in Baie Verte, New Brunswick. He graduated from Sackville College and thence graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, in Dentistry.



Dr. A. H. Goodwin's homestead, 1904. (l. to r.) Eleanor, Lillian, and baby Bill.

My father contracted the "Go West, Young Man" fever and soon landed in Calgary. He was aboard the first C.P.R. train to make the run between Calgary and Edmonton. He later rode by bicycle from Edmonton to Calgary, which was quite a trip on roads which were little better than trails. I believe it took almost a week.

Father apparently found the, then, hamlet of Edmonton very attractive. He began practising Dentistry there and married one of Edmonton's first schoolteachers, Lena Anne Taylor. His dental equipment and tools are now obsolete and are at present in the Glenbow Foundation (Museum) in Calgary.



Dr. Goodwin, in his 90's. Early 1970's.

In 1897 he administered “laughing gas” for painless dental work. Prior to that Dr. Goodwin had practised Dentistry in filling teeth, in extracting teeth, etc., without the benefit of local anaesthetics.

In 1906 my dad, mother and family moved to the farming district of old Vegreville. Dr. Rush was kept very busy, making long trips in all kinds of weather. In 1907 an epidemic, of “Cholera Infantum”, took the lives of several young babies — our sister Jean amongst them. She is buried with my mother in the Vegreville Cemetery.

When we moved in 1908 to the bustling town of New Vegreville, Dad returned to his dental practice where he tells the humorous story of a man and his wife coming into his office — the woman with a very badly swollen face and an obviously painful jaw. Her husband said to my Dad, “You’ve got to pull her tooth — I can’t sleep at night”.

Dad was Mayor of Vegreville for a number of years and took a keen interest in community work, in humanities, in politics, church and charitable organizations. Some of his offices were Master of the First Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star and the Elks’ Lodge, etc.

Dad had the distinction of acquiring Vegreville’s first automobile — a Ford car, I believe. It had scoop-outs for doors, low windshields, no top and the engine had to be cranked. One day on a trip out to “Sick Man Lake” in the car, it stopped short; it could not make the hill (Sick Man Hill). We all got out and pushed it to the top. The campsite at the lake is long since gone, but we have many memories of our holidays spent camping out at the lake or going in that car.

Father passed away in Edmonton at the age of 96, a great man and almost a centenarian.

Gordica, George and Annie

George was born in 1895 in the village of Vedeniw, Sniatyn, in Western Ukraine. When he was 15, both of his parents had passed away, and he had to earn his own living at a very low wage. He decided to venture to Canada when he was only 17. Arriving in Winnipeg, 1912, he worked on various construction jobs, and later as a farm hand in the Dauphin, Manitoba, area. In the fall of 1917 he came to the Vegreville district where he worked on the farm of Harry Aronec, and there he met Annie, daughter of Harry and Helen.

Annie was born in 1900 and attended Sich school. Those days school was only taught for three months in summer. She attended Ukrainian classes at the Mundare Convent in 1908.

George and Annie were married in the fall of 1918. From Maxim Orchuk, they bought, then



Wedding of George Gordica and Annie Aronec. Fall of 1918, Mundare.



50th Wedding Anniversary of George and Annie Gordica, 1968, Vegreville. Annie was the only member of the Harry Aronec's children to celebrate a golden anniversary.

cleared and cultivated their farm which was in the same section as the Aronec farm. A new house and barn were built in 1934 and later they planted a shelter belt around the completed new farmstead. George was active in the building of Sich Community Hall in the 1920's and both he and Annie took an active part in cultural activities. George was elected school trustee several times in the Sich district. They retired from farming in 1952 and built a house in Vegreville.

George and Annie raised two boys, Nick and Harry, who are married and presently living in Edmonton and St. Albert.

In 1970 George passed away at 75 years of age and Annie moved to Edmonton in 1973 to be closer to her family.

Gordica, Harry and Sophie

Harry, younger son of Annie and the late George Gordica, was born October 6, 1924, and attended school in the Warwick district. He married Sophie, daughter of Mary and the late Stephan Wozney. Sophie grew up and attended school in the Mundare district. She has one sister, Ann, residing in Port Alberni, B.C. and three brothers, Paul and Mike in Edmonton and Pete who is still farming in the Vegreville District.

Harry and Sophie farmed northwest of Vegreville till 1955, at which time they moved to Edmonton. In 1973 they bought a new home in St. Albert where they presently reside. Harry is manager with Mid-West Property Management. Sophie is working at the credit office at Woodward's.

They have two children, Donna Marie and Daniel. Donna completed her education and gradua-

tion from high school in St. Albert. She attended N.A.I.T. Secretarial School and is presently employed with Edmonton Telephones as a service Representative. Daniel is attending St. Albert High School, in grade eleven.

Donna was married September 15, 1979, to Darby Fazackerley, son of the late Harry Fazackerley and Mary Ray of Edmonton. He graduated from the University of Alberta in Bachelor of Commerce and is employed as an Accountant with Westmount Store Fixtures. Darby is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Smook of Vegreville.

Gordica, Nick And Katherine

On November 7, 1919, George and Annie Gordica's first born was son Nick. He attended grade school at Sich with Mr. P. M. Shavchook as his teacher for eight years, and completed high school in Vegreville.

While farming with his father, during the winter months he took a course in Radio, T.V. and Industrial Electronics and completed the course at the National Schools in Los Angeles, U.S.A. in 1947. In 1946 he married Katherine, daughter of John and Annie Rogalski of Vegreville. Her parents farmed in Plain Lake School district where she attended elementary school and completed her education in New Beauvallon. Later the family moved to Vegreville.



Harry Gordica Family, 1978. Standing — Harry Gordica. Sitting — Donna, Sophie (Wozney), Daniel.



Nick Gordica Family, 1976. Sitting in front is Katherine (Rogalski). Middle row — Patricia and Nick. Back row — Taras, Bohdan, Luba (Huhlewych).

Nick and Katherine moved to Edmonton in 1947, and have 3 children. Marie Patricia Ann graduated from high school and completed an I.C.B. Course in Banking and is presently employed with the Bank of Commerce. Bohdan George completed his B. of Ed. at U. of A. and is now managing "U-Print-It" Dark-room and Studio Rentals, a business he and his brother own. In 1976 he married Luba Anna Huhlewych, a teacher, and they now have a son Mark Alexander.

Taras John completed his education in the Television Arts and is presently a production sound engineer employed with CITV Television Centre, Edmonton.

Nick is an electronic technician at Eaton's and Katherine is a receptionist at a dental office.

Gorsline, Cars and Dorothy (Nicholson)

Our family arrived in the Vegreville district in 1912, and eventually, after my father's death, in the Park Grove area in 1917, while I was still very small. I took my public and high school training in Vegreville, but attended church and Sunday School at Park Grove. Mrs. Ken Ferguson (Aunt Fannie to all us youngsters) was my teacher.

I can recall many happy events at the school from 1923 to 1932. One year, five of us girls (Eva Wilson, Ruth McCleery, Josephine Jennings, Evelyn McCleery and myself) attended a C.G.I.T. camp at Sickman Lake. Rev. and Mrs. Schragg were supervisors. Mrs. F. Morrison and Mrs. Glyde from Vegreville were camp cooks, and Miss Greta Patterson (Mrs. Davis) was our tent mother.

Every Friday night there was a community card party in one of the homes, and what fun we used to have! I remember so well one at our home (H. E. Worth's, now my brother Bill's). Mom had made two large freezers of ice cream to serve after sandwiches and coffee, and I was helping to dish it out, a good big spoonful to each one. John Ziegler came along with the big old-time soup bowl for his share. I really filled it for John, and bet that he'd never finish it. Was I mistaken! John was soon back saying, "That was a good sample — how about a dish of ice cream?"

Thinking of John and Irene reminds me of the beef ring we shared in those days. Mr. William Cunningham Sr. was a butcher by trade, and every week, I think it was, one of the members of the ring would supply a beef which was cut up and portioned out among the members. Each week we got a different cut so that eventually everybody got their "beef" back. It was a real good way to keep in touch with your neighbors.

We had good fun at concerts and dances. Once Gordon Wilson, who was driving a big freight truck at that time, took a load of Park Grove young people

over to Kolomea School for their Christmas Concert. It was about forty below that night and Gordon had to keep the truck running most of the time. I remember another time I was going in a cutter to a dance at Park Grove with a friend. The snow drifts were terrible on the road north of Kittos, and we tipped over several times. But those were the good old horse-and-cutter days.

My husband, Cars, remembers too, how they used to raise money for the Red Cross during World War One. They didn't canvass in those days, but generally had a social of some kind where they auctioned off shadows or boxes or pies, or whatever, to raise money. He remembers one time when Mr. Tom Tierney made up his mind that he was going to buy Mrs. Bert Jennings' pie. Mr. Jennings was going to buy that pie himself. The result was that Mr. Jennings finally gave in, and Mr. Tierney paid \$28.00 for the pie. Mr. Robert Wilson helped the war effort along too, by donating three fine Barred Rock chickens to the man who paid most for a pie or box. Often when a young fellow wanted a particular box or pie his friends would bid it up to a really high price.

A group of young people got up a play, I think it was in 1929. We had so much fun going to practices. We put it on in the schoolhouse, and then Mr. (Doc) Hosking invited us to put it on at Brush Hill where he was teaching. We drove over with a team and sleigh. It was pretty cold, but sure worth it. Mrs. Hosking and other kind ladies in that district had a hot pork-and-bean supper ready for us when we arrived. The play went over very well. It had a college setting, where the girls' dorms were off limits for the boys. The head professor (John Ziegler) and the matron (Irene Ziegler) were always on the look-out for erring youngsters. We had them stumped for awhile, but the matron caught on and came blustering in. Everything seemed innocent enough as we were all studying. Then the professor came and we broke loose. He thought the matron was in on the party so the only thing to do was to join in the fun, and everybody had a good time. We were invited to put the play on in town for two nights. Mr. Emil Wener closed his bakery and gave us a lovely supper the first night. I can't recall all the actors, but Harold Fuller, Eva Lowe, John and Irene Ziegler, Evelyn McCleery, May Kitto, Bob Irvine, Lorne Cunningham, my brother Bill and myself, Dorothy Nicholson, took part. I can't remember the name of that play, either, but I do know that's when Bill and I learned to like olives!

Gorsline, Earl and Florence by Florence (Scott) Gorsline

I, Florence Scott came to Alberta in the fall of

1912 with my parents William and Lillian Scott, moving from Chicago Heights, Ill., U.S.A. My folks settled in the Imperial District south of Vegreville. With my sisters and brothers we attended the Imperial School, walking 3½ miles across prairie, or, if we were lucky, and the horses were not being used, we got one to ride. My first teacher was Anna Bowe, sister of Mrs. Couillard, wife of the late Dr. Couillard; another of my teachers being Clara Reimer.

Earl Gorsline was born in Kingston, Ontario, fifth son of Sam and Margaret Gorsline. Moving to Alberta in 1905 they farmed north of Edmonton; after a few years the family moved to Vegreville. The move being made in their first family car, a 1917 model.

Earl and I were married in Vegreville in 1929 with Rev. Irving performing the ceremony. We settled on a farm west of Vegreville until 1946, when we moved into the town of Vegreville.

We were blessed with six children, five sons and one daughter.

Before moving to town, the three eldest sons attended Old Vegreville School, the three-mile distance being covered either by horse or on foot. Some of their well remembered teachers were Betty Brinton (Mrs. John Hantiuk), Mrs. W. Tierney and Fred Reesor.

Eldest son, Lowell deceased in 1976, was killed in an industrial accident in Calgary. His wife Carol, sons Dayton, David and Bobby, daughter Judi carry on at the Gorsline Stables east of Sherwood Park, which was getting started when Lowell met with his untimely death at the age of 46 years.

William (Hap) married to Gloria Goshko, have two children. A son Harvey and his wife Cynthia live in White Rock, B.C. where Harvey is a member of



6-cousin (Gorsline) hockey team, 1940. Back row (l. to r.) — Hap. Roland, Lowell. Front row (l. to r.) — Jim, Gary, Lyle.

the R.C.M.P. Their daughter Dawn, Mrs. Brian Vas-sjo, resides in Edmonton and is teaching in Spruce Grove. William and Gloria also make their home in Edmonton. They own and operate the Palace of Sweets in Meadowlark Shopping Center.

Gary joined Canadian Utilities after leaving school and is still with the same company, now known as Alberta Power. Gary has been with the company for 27 years and resides in Two Hills. Gary married the former Margaret Moore and they have three daughters, Debra, Kelly and Shauna.

Rodney lives in Ottawa with his wife Barbara (nee Paterson) and their son Craig. He has been a member of the Royal Canadian Navy for 23 years. After serving several years at sea as a Radar Operator, on numerous Canadian Forces Training Vessels, he has now been promoted to Personnel Officer.

Our only daughter Rita married Murv Radvony and they are living in Spruce Grove with their two daughters, Melanie and Marla. Rita is employed as a Drafts person with Calgary Power, where she has been employed for eighteen years.

A number of years later Joseph was born, and was loved and spoilt by his older brothers and sister. After finishing school in Vegreville he attended Mount Royal College in Calgary, and was employed by Canadian Utilities for four years, leaving them to attend the University of Calgary. Joe married Carol McGilvery and they have one son, Paul. Joe is now teaching Physical Education and Science at Rideau Park School in Calgary.

Earl and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in August 1979, have now retired and are living in Vegreville.

Gorsline, Sam and Margaret by Florence (Scott) Gorsline

Mr. and Mrs. Gorsline came to Alberta in 1905 from Ontario, where Sam had a Tailor Shop near Kingston.



Sawing wood for winter, 1926. The Gorsline brothers under supervision of Mr. S. E. Gorsline. (l. to r.) — Dad Gorsline, Russ, Burns, Alex, Carswell and Earl.



The Gorsline brothers and Dad oiling and repairing harnesses ready for spring work, 1919. (l. to r.) — Earl, Dad, Russ and Carswell.



Crane (Shaduf) for drawing water from well — on Gorsline farm, 1920's.

Their first venture into farming was north of Edmonton where the Laurence Rye family now reside. The buildings built by the Gorslines still stand.

In 1917 the family moved south to Lavoy; here they stayed just one year, buying land southwest of Vegreville.



Giving the girls a ride on stone boat on Gorsline farm, 1946.



Chopping feed for cows and hogs, 1928, on Gorsline farm.



Harrowing on Gorsline farm, 1928.

Sam and Margaret, their family of six boys and one daughter were very involved in the community and the United Church which they attended faithfully. After church on Sunday the young people of the district gathered at the Gorsline farm, in the summer, for a game of horseshoes, baseball or just a nice visit. One winter a skating rink was built at the Brandel Farm, about a mile from the Gorslines; four of the Gorsline boys, three Brandels, the Hulett, Langpaps and others all joined forces to build the rink. Many an enjoyable evening was spent skating and sitting around the big bonfire.

Of the Gorsline family, sons Carswell and Earl live in Vegreville, Russel in Surrey, B.C. Daughter Mollie, sons Alex, Burns, Garfield have gone to meet their maker.

Sam died in January, 1931, Margaret in April, 1940; both rest in peace in the Vegreville Cemetery.

Goshko, Andrew and Mary

Mary was born in Slawa, Alberta to Peter and Katherine Triska. She attended Zora School, then worked in Vegreville where she met Andrew Goshko.

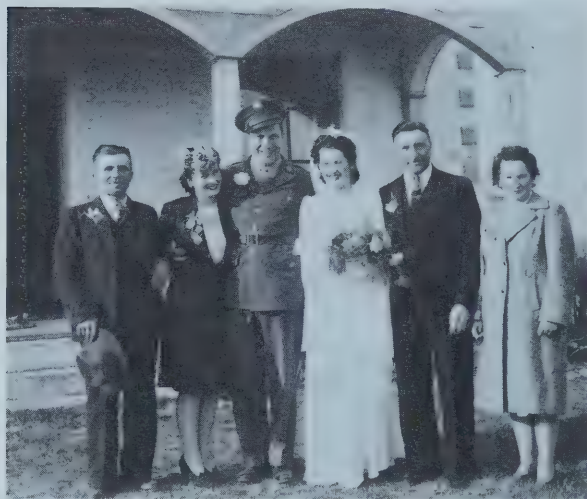
Andrew was born to Jim and Maria Goshko who lived in the Borschiw Community eleven miles southwest of Vegreville. He went to Moscow School and then Leachville. Mary and Andrew were married November 26, 1935 and lived on the family farm with Andrew's parents for four years. Jim and Maria then moved to Inland leaving Andrew and Mary to



Making hay at Andrew Goshko's farm, 1940.



Cutting grain. Andrew Goshko and helper, 1936.



Irene's Wedding. Left to right: Mike Klutz, Mary Goshko, Lestor Sanderson, Irene Sanderson, Andrew Goshko, Olga Klutz — on Andrew's farm, 1938.



Mary Goshko, Andrew's wife, by Andrew's inherited home, built in 1915. Date of photo, 1936.



Nick Goshko family. l. to r. — Boris, Nick, Mary, Nestor, visiting Andrew and Mary Goshko, 1940's.

work the land. In 1956 the farm was sold to Orest J. Kuly, and Andrew and Mary moved to the farm near Alida which they bought from Nick Goshko. Andrew and Mary farmed there until 1969 the year of Andrew's untimely death at the age of 58 years. Mary moved to Vegreville shortly after where she presently resides.

Goshko, Harry and Helene by Gloria (Goshko) Gorsline

Harry Goshko was born in the village of Lanivtsi, county of Borschiw, province of Halychyna which was under the Austrian Empire, now part of U.S.S.R., on October 10, 1899.

His parents, James and Mary Goshko, emigrated to Canada in 1900 with their infant son Harry. Upon arriving in Canada they proceeded westward to the Vegreville area where they filed for and obtained a homestead ten miles S.W. of Vegreville. Harry grew up on this homestead together with his three brothers and five sisters.

Harry attended Leachville Elementary School whenever his responsibilities on the farm permitted. He was finally compelled to leave school at an early age as his help on the farm was a matter of physical survival for the family. Among other strenuous tasks on the farm it was his responsibility to help break new land which involved managing and directing an eight-horse tandem. On June 11, 1925, Harry married Helene Powley, eldest daughter of Anton and Sophie Powley, who arrived from the village of Konuskiw, county of Brody, in the early 1900's.

Helene was born on June 3, 1905, in Canada. Upon completing grade eight in Moscow School she was also compelled to leave her books behind to help with the family duties. These duties included picking wild berries and mushrooms and cooking and sewing, which stood her in good stead as she became a proficient seamstress. After their marriage they settled on a farm 1½ miles north-east of Inland, Alberta. The home to which Harry brought his new bride consisted of a small shack and a sod granary. The land was only partially cleared at this time, which required many years of long hard days to develop. Here they made their happy home for 44 years, during which time they were instrumental in helping to build roads, schools, a community hall, as well as being active in church affairs. Helene also found time to participate in handicrafts and sewing which is still a rewarding part of her life and brings her much pleasure.

Harry and Helene are the parents of two daughters, Susan and Gloria. The girls attended school at Inland and then went on to school in Vegreville as



The Harry and Helene Goshko Family, 1979.

well as attending Ukrainian classes during the summer months. The family attended St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Borschiw, Alberta. Harry and Helene celebrated their 25th and 40th wedding anniversaries with family and friends on their farm with an outdoor dinner, sing songs and recollections of the past. In 1969 they sold the farm, pulled up roots and moved to Edmonton.

1975 was a very special year for Harry and Helene as they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They are both very active in the Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Holy Eucharist.

Susan, the eldest daughter, is married to Peter Skelley who is originally from Dundee, Scotland. Peter is a welder and Susan is a homemaker and part-time salesclerk. They have two daughters, Patricia and Audrey.

Patricia, the eldest daughter, married Harvey Stein on October, 1969. Harvey is a construction manager for a land development Company in Edmonton and Patricia is the office manager for the same firm. They have twin daughters, Shawna and Kelley.

Audrey married Harry Lowe, formerly of Lethbridge, Alberta, on April 27, 1968. Harry is a Locomotive Engineer for the Canadian National Railway and Audrey gave up her career as a secretary to become a homemaker and fulltime mother to their two children, Kimberley and Scott. They make their home in Edmonton.

Gloria, Harry and Helene's youngest daughter, married William Gorsline of Vegreville on November 26, 1950. They now reside in Edmonton where they own and operate Palace of Sweets Ltd. and Palace Food Brokerage Ltd. They have two children, a son Harvey and a daughter Dawn.

Harvey was married November 25, 1972, to Cynthia Carter of Bella Coola, B.C. They presently reside in White Rock, B.C. where Harvey is a mem-

Date, June 18 1941

M Mr. K. K. K.

Address _____

	ACCT. FWD.
1 lb. honey ✓	50
1 lb. butter ✓	20
1 lb. brown sugar ✓	10
4 lb. Kraft Cheese ✓	16
4 lb. raisins ✓	19
1 doz. lemons ✓	25
3 lbs. Lux Soap ✓	15
	<u>157</u>

25

Grocery bill, 1941.

Date, June 24 1941

M Mr. M. M. M.

Address _____

	ACCT. FWD.
10 lbs. sugar	.88
yeast	15
Laundry soap	10
mapples	20
toilet soap	10
	<u>1.43</u>
12 doz. eggs @ 13	1.68
	<u>1.57</u>
5¢ candy	.05
1 lb. butter	10
high paper	10
	<u>2.00</u>
<u>Paid</u>	129 over

◆ Your account must be paid. If order is placed, payment must be made.

Grocery bill, 1941.

Date, June 19 1941

M Mr. M. M. M.

Address _____

	ACCT. FWD.
1 lb. walnuts	.20
7 lb. Dates	.17
1 bottle pop	.05
Candy	.10
	<u>.52</u>
2	<u>42</u>
	<u>2.94</u>
1 box apples	60
2 lbs. brown sugar	34
	<u>3.84</u>
<u>27 Paid</u>	10
	<u>3.74</u>

Grocery bill, 1941.

ber of the R. C. M. P. His wife Cynthia is employed by a trust company in White Rock.

Dawn married Brian Vaasjo August 26, 1978. They reside in Edmonton. Dawn obtained a Bachelor of Education degree, majoring in music, from the University of Alberta and is now teaching Grade 1 at St. Joseph Catholic School in Spruce Grove, Alberta. Her husband Brian also has a Bachelor of Education degree and is working on his Master's degree in Business Administration at the U. of A. He is presently employed by a major oil firm in an accounting position.

Harry and Helene's love for the land did not stop when they left the farm; this is very evident if you were to visit their home in Edmonton in the summer and see their beautiful garden and apple trees.

The children have many fond memories of the farm, and of hospitality and kindness that were shown to them by their loving parents and grandparents, Harry and Helene Goshko.

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